

better

JULY 2015 120-page Issue

₹ 100

interiors

IDEAS AND DESIGN FOR BETTER LIVING

KIDDING AROUND

100+ tips and tricks to transform your little one's space into a stylish paradise

FEATURING

City Heritage Centre, Ahmedabad
Hardik Patel
Jenny Pinto
Kunal Shah Designs
Sumessh Menon Associates

BEST BUYS

90 stunning picks to cater to your child's every decor need

DO IT YOURSELF

A beautiful bedroom in bright neon green to make your tot's childhood a magical time to cherish

Small Style

Some will shake their heads, but I have to say, childhood today just ain't the same... Yeah, we adults will debate, ponder and worry about how children are stuck indoors in their little plastic bubbles; how they're slaves to technology; obsesses with spending money on parties and expensive toys... the list is quite frankly endless. I can vividly remember my childhood — paper boats floated on puddles, jumping into the river during the summer, reading under the shades of trees and of course, TV. All we had was Doordarshan back then with He-Man being my favourite. Then there was the absolute thrill of buying a first cell phone with our very own salary. Kids today aren't like we were. As an ode to our cherished childhood and the ones we see blossom before us, we at **Better Interiors** are proud to present an entire issue dedicated to the little ones in our lives.

Bazaar has been segregated into the three stages of childhood — infancy, adolescence and teenagers. The carefully selected assortment of furniture, accessories and furnishings echo the latest styles, colours and materials in the market. Don't miss *High Five* that showcases the five best wallpaper options for a kid's room; each one is gorgeous and a statement piece. The quest for design and style that would pique a child's interest led us to Villa Veneta Kids, a brand new offering from the reputed CC India group which brings to India the famous Italian modular kitchen brand Veneta Cucine. Here, the designers will help a child create his or her own bedroom space. And so came alive our *Techniques* section. Their colour forecast for the kids room this season — neon green — is refreshing and promises to bring out the best in your tot. Add the fact that the products featured are sustainable and you have an irresistible offering.

So, go ahead... share this month's copy with the kids in your life. And while you're at it, make sure you let the child in you take the reins. You won't be sorry with the result.

Deepa Nair
Editor

PS: Do visit our website www.betterinteriors.in for digitally exclusive updates on industry news, product launches, art shows, project reviews and more.



Caging birds is a heinous crime according to me, but not these bird pendant lamps from The Purple Turtles handcrafted by the Channapatna wood turnery method.



Sumesh Menon Associates crafts a bespoke 4-BHK home for a family of four in Mumbai. The space reflects an upmarket lifestyle, is creative and innovative and showcases the architect's attention to detail.



City Heritage Centre, Ahmedabad and architect Hardik Patel transform a dilapidated old Pol *haveli* in Ahmedabad by using age-old methods and knowledge. The outcome of this exercise is a heritage studio home with a contemporary heart in a traditional shell.



Kunal Shah Designs brings together logical reasoning and an acute aesthetic sensitivity to create a deceptively simple shell for The Tarq Gallery in art deco building Dhanraj Mahal in Mumbai — an artful place to showcase and celebrate art!

editor's pick



New in stores

The Gymkhana and Chandigarh from Iqur + Ritz beautifully blends the old with the new in their melange of shelves, side tables, sideboards, cabinets, armchairs, desk chairs and single seaters.

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088

COVER STORY

Old is gold... there could be no better testimony for this phrase other than this beautifully restored heritage *haveli* by the City Heritage Centre, Ahmedabad and architect Hardik Patel. The attempt of transforming the decaying *haveli* situated in the old walled city of Ahmedabad into a heritage studio is truly inspiring.

Cover Photograph: Architect Hardik Patel

Location: Ahmedabad



DESIGN BYTES

020 Roundabout

A complete coverage of the latest in the design world — from store launches, website launches, an online gallery platform to exhibitions, news and more.

070 Techniques A GREEN IMPRINT

In this neon green bedroom set up created by Villa Veneta Kids, practicality and playfulness come together to create a whimsical wonder for your little one.



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THING TANK

038 Swish List

Sleek furniture, pretty Italian storage boxes, functional wall compositions, gorgeous home decor accessories and traditional cushions... a complete list of what's hot in the market.

043 Bazaar MINI ADVENTURE

We trudged out into the big bad world and got a whole lot of adorable goodies (furniture, furnishings and decor accessories) for your little one. Be it a baby, an adolescent or a teenager...we have it all.



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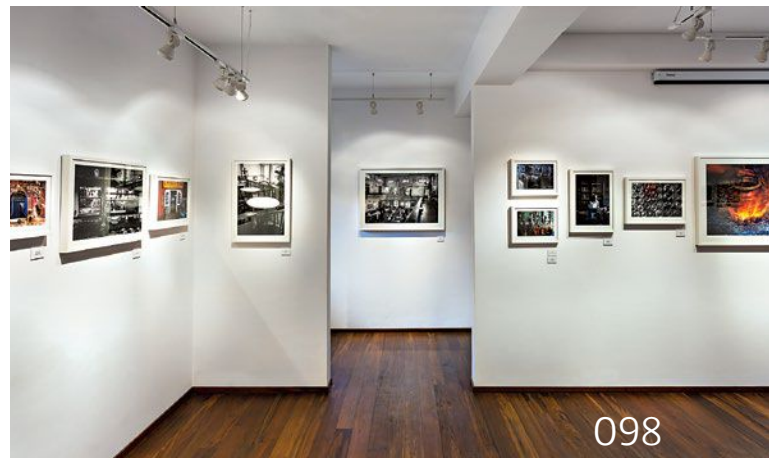
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078 **Habitat** ELEMENTAL ELEGANCE

Interior designer Sumesh Menon takes customization to a whole new level by transforming a 4-BHK into an artful home for a family of four, in Mumbai.

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Write back



RESPITE FROM HEAT

The summer heat is totally unbearable and like me most people are looking forward to the monsoons to come I'm sure. So when I saw that the magazine has come out with a monsoon special, I was elated. I quickly turned the pages to my favourite segment *Bazaar* and was totally impressed. This time too, the team has done a brilliant job by cataloging some wonderful products under the grey, blue, green themes (all colours associated with the rains). From dinnerware to cushions, and from furniture to accessories, I could not make up my mind which one looks best. Thoroughly enjoyed reading about these exquisite products. Kudos!

AASHIKA SAXENA, MUMBAI



SO FOCUSED

I have been subscribing to this magazine since a couple of years and must say it is put together very nicely. I especially like the fact that the team has been concentrating on special features like *In focus*, which gives readers



LETTER OF THE MONTH

I simply loved the June 2015 cover! It has the right mood and the right amount of colour to bring sunshine inside our homes for the monsoon. The cover story *A Dialogue About Design* was an equally interesting read. Most of the times I just flip through the pages looking at the wonderful pictures that represent each project, admire them, and get inspired once in a while to make some changes at home. However, this time around I actually read the entire article. I could understand the point of view of the architects and how the space has been planned. It gave me further insight into the project which I have been missing while just going through the images. Commendable!

MEHVISH KHAN, HYDERABAD

so much information and insight into things related to home interiors. The article *Frame Story* on doors and windows was very helpful as I now plan to implement some of the pointers. What more can one ask for? Thank you.

RUSHAB BANNERJEE, KOLKATA



BEST HOMES

This letter is just to show appreciation for all the amazing

projects you bring to us month-after-month. The June issue had some real treats. I am completely enamored by *The Staircase House* in Mumbai designed by the Mexico-based *Arquitectura en Movimiento Workshop*. The sculptural staircase is simply outstanding! The house in Vadodara designed by *A+T Associates* was also stunning with their play of patterns. Thank you, and keep up the good work!

SONAL JADHAV, PUNE

RAINING PRODUCTS

Every month, when *Better Interiors* comes home, I turn to the *Swish List* and *Gallery* pages to find out what's new in the market. Needless to say, these are my favourite features in the magazine. Its up to date news about what's happening in both, the lifestyle and the building materials, appliances etc industries is very informative for



design enthusiasts like me. The rainy season is on its way and I am very happy that the magazine has done a special issue on it. An amazing selection of products has been featured in the *Bazaar* segment and I could not help but shortlist some for future buys.

ASMA SHAIKH, CHENNAI



GO SOLAR

Solight Design's *Solar Puff* covered in the *Eco Beat* segment is such a lovely and ingenious product. Yes it is sustainable in nature; compact and easy to use but what I like most about it is the inspiration for the designers. Really heartening to see that a natural disaster inspired them to take an initiative and make a change. So many villages and towns across the globe and in our country face power cuts and power shortage and this tiny solar puff can be really useful. The team always finds such innovative products and stories and brings to the forefront. Really great!

NISHA MALIK, GURGAON



KINDLY WRITE IN WITH YOUR RAVES OR RANTS TO:

deepa.nair@network18publishing.com or post to The Editor, *Better Interiors*, Unit No. 501, 5th Floor, Tower-I One Indiabulls Centre, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road, Mumbai 400013.

NOTE: CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE EDITED FOR PURPOSE OF LENGTH AND GRAMMAR.

Round About

A ROUND-UP OF WHAT'S NEW IN STORES, PRODUCTS, ART SHOWS AND MUCH MORE.

QUICK TAKE

HOME DECOR SEGMENT ON INDIANROOTS

The online fashion portal has now expanded into home decor accessories and furnishings. On offer are handpicked and hand-crafted home linen, clocks, photo frames, decorative accessories, lamps, mugs, glasses and dinner sets.

www.indianroots.com

NITCO'S SPRING SUMMER COLLECTION 2015

This newly launched range comprises of wall, digital parking, magnified and GVT tiles. The highlight of this collection is the Nitco Casa-Future Homes tiles that take its cue from different world cultures and art forms. Each piece, as they claim is an eclectic masterpiece inspired from timeless shapes, patterns that have defined the foundation of art. The tiles are joint free, highly durable and have dirt and stain resistant properties.

www.nitco.com

ECO FRIENDLY FURNITURE BY I'M CENTER

Do your bit to save the environment by bringing home the newly launched eco-friendly furniture created by furniture designer Punam Kalra. The collection consists of beds, dining tables and centre tables. The concept behind the collection is to covert scrap wood into piece of art.

www.imcaa.in

Miele's new lounge in Gurgaon



MIELE HAS SET UP A CLASSY lounge at the third floor of Plaza Mall in Gurgaon. Spread over 2,500 square foot, it flaunts a stylish live kitchen which is supervised by eminent resident chefs amidst a swanky array of home appliances from Miele's latest series. Designed by architects Gauri and Somnath Dutta Roy of Idea Matrix,

Mumbai; The Miele Lounge is an effort to re-position the 'kitchen' as the fulcrum of all activities in the house. Not only can a customer browse through the showcased appliances; Miele also invites those who are passionate about food to learn new recipes under the keen guidance of the chefs.

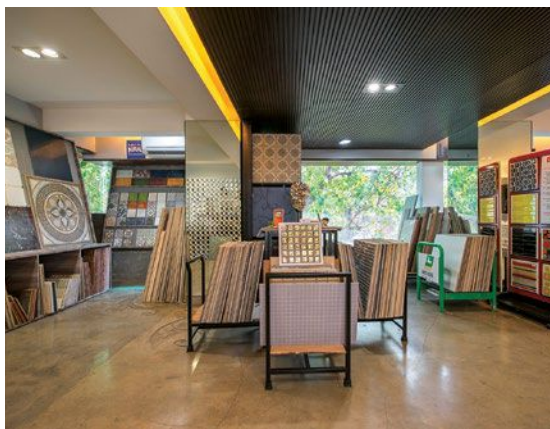
www.miele.in

And the Red Dot goes to...

ROBERT SACHON AND the Bosch Home Appliances design team for the Red Dot: Design Team of the Year 2015. For the past ten years, Robert Sachon has been in charge of brand design for Robert Bosch Hausgerate GmbH. In addition to developing a new design idiom spanning across products, the other focal points of his work have been integrating technological innovations and increasing the connectivity of appliances. The most recent example, which has already been successful on the market, is the Series 8 built-in appliance range — with ovens leading the way.

www.boschindia.com

Under the Roof store in Mumbai



UNDER THE ROOF — HOME CONCEPTS

store has opened at Raghuvanshi Mill Compound, Lower Parel in Mumbai. The store offers an extensive variety of designer tiles, imported marble, stone articles, sanitaryware, bathroom fittings, bath tubs, jacuzzi, pebbles and stones, sauna and steam, and a broad range of interior and exterior luxury concepts. Spacious and stylish, the store displays an array of unique products from various countries including Spain, Italy, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey, Portugal, USA, Brazil, Germany, India etc.

(022) 24965087

Saint-Gobain launches Housing Innovation Challenge



SAINT-GOBAIN INDIA HAS LAUNCHED the Housing Innovation Challenge as part of its historic worldwide 350 year celebrations. The initiative invites innovators and thinkers to identify problem areas that arise in housing, and to come up with solutions. A dual format competition, the Housing Innovation Challenge brings together professionals and the general public. In the professional space; architects, interior designers, planners and engineers are invited to submit entries on possible areas of intervention in the categories of sustainable

housing, and housing for smart cities. The competition also urges the general public to voice their problems and contribute to the competition by enlisting any housing issues that they may have faced or are facing. Entries for the challenge has commenced from June 4th 2015, and will go on till September 5th, 2015. The best ideas and proposals will be selected by an eminent jury panel comprising of Prof Krishnarao Jaisim and architects Brinda Somaya and Rahul Kadri.

www.saint-gobain.co.in/housinginnovation

Maison.15 opens at the capital



A BRAND NEW CONCEPT LIFESTYLE store Maison.15 has opened its doors to New Delhi at Santushti Shopping Complex. The creative minds behind Maison.15 are the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law duo Rekha Datt and Ritika Datt. The owners were in the business of home decor since the last two and half years, and were supplying furnishing fabrics and wallpaper sourced

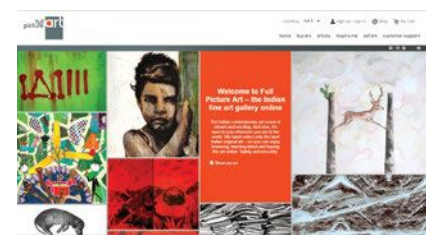
from the US and Europe, to Indian design professionals. The store's decor feature whites, creams and grey hues mixed with bold black and a hint of print — collectively they create a stunning look. Maison.15 showcases art, stationery, pottery, table linen, candles, and furnishings, all personally curated by the duo. (011) 24106086

Studio HBA comes to Mumbai

HIRSCH BEDNER ASSOCIATES (HBA), the world leader in hospitality and interior design, has opened a division of its Studio HBA, in Mumbai. Located at Kamla Mills Compound, Lower Parel, this award-winning design firm aims to offer interior design solutions for the middle-tier hospitality sector of India. Studio HBA now has two offices in India based out of Mumbai and New Delhi (opened in 2010) which are targeted at the diverse mid-range hospitality sector including two/three-star hotels, and smaller projects like private residences, spas, nightclubs, corporate offices, etc. The New Delhi office has to its credit projects like RMA Galleria Residences and RMZ Latitude Residences (Bangalore), Courtyard Marriott (Bangalore), Experion Wind Chants Residences (Gurgaon), Double Tree Hilton (Ahmedabad) and Lodha Pune Club House (Pune). The new Mumbai office has a growing team of highly talented design consultants and experts led by Rahul Shankhwalker.

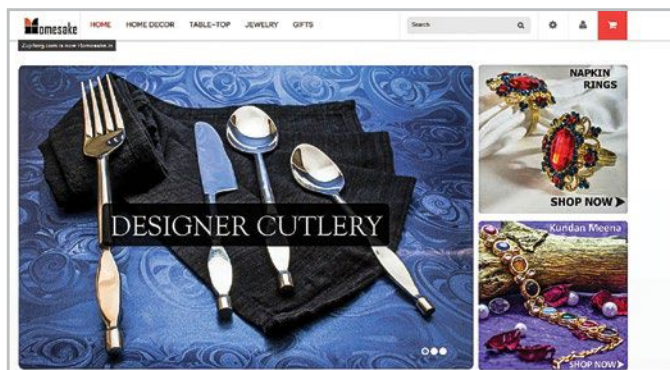
www.studiohba.com

Full Picture Art portal launched



WITH THE INTENTION OF MAKING high quality Indian contemporary art more accessible to more people, husband and wife duo Kiran and Tim Wood have launched a new online gallery platform Full Picture Art (www.fullpictureart.com). The website presents high quality authentic art from abstracts to portraits, original paintings to drawings, and pop art to fine art photography. Here, you'll find that each artist is interviewed to provide in-depth biographies that give insights and background on their works, techniques and also the inspiration and influences behind them. The website also allows the buyer to directly connect with the artists, taking the element of engagement to another level. www.fullpictureart.com

Homesake.in portal unveiled



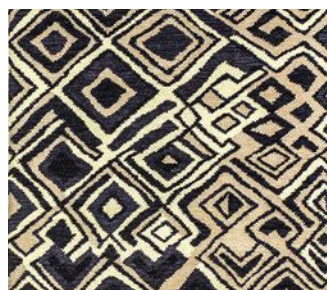
CHECK OUT WWW.

HOMESAKE.IN a newly launched online shopping portal for Indian home decor and handicrafts. The website is divided into four main categories: Home Decor, Table-Top, Jewelry and Gifts. At Homesake, the idea is to blend traditional Indian handicraft techniques with modern stints and designs. They purely believe each and every home is unique and has a

personality. The range of products available under these sections includes antique glass craft, royal craft metal, drizzling crystal-ware, votive and t lights, candle stands, bowls, dips, trays, place settings, salad server, cake server, napkins ring and much more. All the products are sourced directly from artisans and are available at the best price available for customers.

www.homesake.in

Obeetee comes out with Bid for Change auction



OBEETEE, ONE OF THE LARGEST handmade rug makers in India, has initiated the Bid For Change auction, a unique online charity auction, with the aim to give back to the society. One can bid for one of the rugs featured on the portal (by registering on www.obeeetee.org) and the company would then donate 100 per cent of the proceeds to a charity organization of the customer's choice. So far Obeetee has partnered with four

charity organizations — The Project Mala Schools, Pratham innovative educational organization, Ramakrishna Mission worldwide non-political organization and Gopepur Village. The Project Mala Schools, with support and land donated by Obeetee, has provided education, healthcare, and vocational training to over 7,500 children from some of India's poorest villages.

(120) 4690200/202

Waterscape — a modular platform for living on water



CREATED BY AUSTRALIAN DESIGNER

Alexander Lotersztain in collaboration with John Hogan, CEO of the Superior Group, the Waterscape is a floating platform which combines the pontoons, marinas and associated furniture. As the first product of its kind that responds to the waterfront lifestyle needs; Waterscape has an efficient and flexible adaptable floating structure that offers a beautifully designed, aesthetically pleasing and multifunctional addition to differentiate such locations. It's modularity enables the customization of each application's specific lifestyle need through

an array of 'clip on' options such as LED lighting, seating, planters, storage, umbrellas, power pedestals, ice boxes, cleats and ladders. All of the accessories and many of the modular structural components are created by casting weather-resistant plastics and metals in aluminium moulds. They are low maintenance and do not require antifouling. Meanwhile, according to the company, all of the components can be disassembled and recycled.

<http://www.dezeen.com/2015/05/26/waterscape-alexander-lotersztain-modular-platform-living-on-water/>

World's largest hotel in Mecca



MECCA PROPOSES TO BUILD HOTEL

by 2017. The 10,000-room Abraj Kudai hotel will be built in the Manafia district, just south

of the Grand Mosque. With twelve 44-story towers containing 10,000 rooms, the hotel, which is being created by multi-national design group Dar Al Handasah will have a total area of 4.6 million sq ft. Each tower will hold approximately 1,200 luxury rooms measuring roughly 45 square meters. Work has already begun on the \$3.5 billion project, which will feature 70 restaurants, multiple helipads, whole floors devoted to royalty and one of the largest domes in the world. London-based design firm Areen Hospitality is in charge of decking out the interior spaces of the hotel.

<http://www.archdaily.com/633927/mecca-to-build-the-world-s-largest-hotel/>

FYI

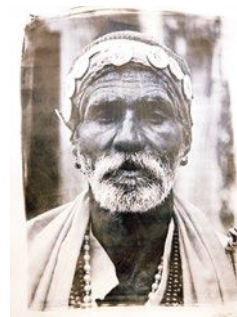


LEIKO IKEMURA

24th April 2015 to 11 July 2015

Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke
2 Sunny House, 16/18 Mereweather Road
Behind Taj Mahal Hotel,
Colaba, Mumbai 400001
Tel: (022) 22023030/3434

Galerie Mirchandani + Steinruecke present the first solo exhibition in India, of internationally renowned artist Leiko Ikemura. The curation of paintings, sculptures, drawings and lithographs in the exhibition, which were made during the period 1997 to 2013, allows for a fascinating engagement with the plastic intensity of Ikemura's creative process.



AL REVELAR

5th June 2015 to 3rd July 2015

Vadehra Art Gallery, D-53,
Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024
Tel: (011) 46103550/51

Vadehra Art Gallery and the Embassy of Mexico in India have organized a group exhibition Al Revelar. Revelar in Spanish means to reveal; it also means to develop a photograph by the chemical processes of analogue printing. This exhibition is put together by three artists Natalia Ludmila, B Ajay Sharma and Fernando de la Torre.

Please note: For insertion in this column, we require details of upcoming events at least a month in advance. We request you to send in event schedules to:

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Updates on events is at the discretion of the organizers. Information is valid at the time of going to print.

Book Review

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL TO THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN THIS MONSOON WITH JAPAN JOURNEYS.

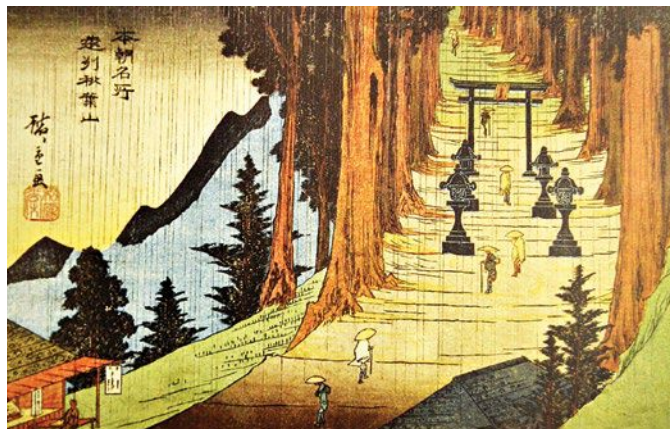
Japan Journeys : Famous Woodblock Prints of Cultural Sights in Japan



PHOTOGRAPHY HAS BECOME an essential part of travel in the 21st century. However, this new book will take us back to a time where creatively crafted woodprints were used as a commercially viable method to capture and document travel. Author Andreas Marks is the head of the Japanese and Korean art Department, and the Clark Center at Minneapolis Institute of Art (which houses a significant collection of these prints). He presents over 500 fascinating

Japanese woodblock prints from the 18th to 20th century in this book. "The origin of the travel boom in Japan is found in the pilgrimages to sacred sites that became widespread among all classes during the nineteenth century," writes Marks in the introductory chapter. There's a clear focus on the delight of travel, discovery and the impact of other cultures on Japan.

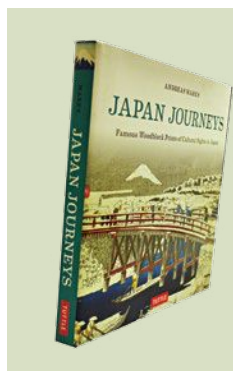
Presented as a narrative of travelling through ancient Japan,



the tome features classical prints that bring alive a part of the country and traditions that have since vanished. The contemporary prints included reference a more current milieu, but the reader can traverse between different moments in time and can read the new through the layers that reference the old. The prints effectively capture the ephemeral qualities of the seasons, and the vibrancy and grandeur of festivals. Exceptional prints such as Utagawa's Fireworks at Ryogoku captures the beauty of a momentarily lit night sky, and the depth of a dark vast river filled with boats. Then there's the breeze that is encapsulated in the movement of the freshly dyed cloth hung out to dry in Utagawa Hiroshige Dyer's Quarters, Kanda 1857; or the blue of the summer skies and blanket of flowers in Kawase Hasui's print Iris Garden at Meiji Shrine from 1951.

The prints portray a series of interesting dichotomies that makes Japan remarkable. The new

versus the old, tradition versus progress; cultural customs such as Sumo tournaments and tea ceremonies come alive on the book's pages. Leisure seekers jostle with the busy city dwellers, hedonism contrasts with spirituality. This volume documents several famous tourist locations, many of those that may have since disappeared. For instance, the lush lily pond of the Zozoji temple at Benten Shrine from Kawase Hasui's 1929 print. The remarkable transformation of Tokyo from the fishing town of Edo to one of the most urbanized cities of the world can be observed in the series of prints that document various districts of the city. Developing infrastructure, new modes of transport and trolleys feature predominantly in the prints. Most notable and prolific amongst the artists featured are Utagawa Hiroshige and Katsushika Hokusai, famed for their landscape-oriented work. This book proves to be a pleasurable visual journey through time, art and culture.



JAPAN JOURNEYS: FAMOUS WOODBLOCK PRINTS OF CULTURAL SIGHTS IN JAPAN
Publisher Tuttle Publishing, Hardcover with Jacket Edition 28th April 2015
Author Andreas Marks
ISBN 978-4-8053-1310-7
Pages 168
Availability Amazon India
Price ₹ 1,078
Reviewed by Varna Shashidhar

Art Walk

THE TECHNICOLOUR IMAGERY PAINTED BY SUCHIT SAHNI AIMS TO CONNECT WITH THE VIEWER.



ARTIST

Suchit Sahni

NEW DELHI-BASED

contemporary artist Suchit Sahni's paintings pulsate with colour. Suchit moves around the capital capturing images and ideas and firmly believes that a vast treasure trove of images are hidden and apparent in a city. These become the basis of his new reality which is translated through colour, form and rhythmic movement. His art captures the ordinary urban life shrouded with mystery, strife and the essence of a city life. Whether it's an image of traffic, a labourer or the simple stack of hats off a street vendor — his perception and depiction has the ability to move a viewer. Armed with a diploma in fine arts from the Academy of Fine Arts, New Delhi, the artist's work include The Contemporary Walk III at The Visual Art Gallery, India Habitat Centre (April 2014); Arty Party at The Gallery, New Delhi (April 2014) and Two Man Show Avant Garde with TAD Arts at Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi (March 2013).

ANCHORED BY: ALIFIYA MEHANDADWALA; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE ARTIST

Email: suchitartist@gmail.com



Eco Beat

SPAIN-BASED PRODUCT DESIGNER JORGE PENADES TRANSFORMS LEATHER OFFCUTS INTO STRUCTURAL SKIN.



PRODUCT DESIGNER

Jorge Penades

The search for new sustainable and cost-effective materials is a perpetual quest for designers. Oficina Jorge Penades, a Madrid-based independent establishment, founded by product designer Jorge Penades (born in Malaga, Spain), explores areas that transcend conventional design. One such example is leather — albeit its quality is directly proportional to the animal it's taken from, despite different tanning processes. Irrespective of the treatment, a large amount of inferior material is usually discarded. Jorge has devised a new production method wherein these disposed scraps are shredded to form a new raw material called Structural Skin. The process involves pressing leather strips with a natural binder of animal origin and then creating various objects in moulds through a compression process. No resin or chemical component has been used along the production, considering the environmental impact of the project. The designer uses brass to bring the pieces to life. A side table and a clothes hanger are part of the new collection launched by the designer.

www.jorgepenades.com



Perfect 10

THE GIFTED PRODUCT DESIGNER JENNY PINTO ON HER FAVOURITE MATERIALS, SUSTAINABILITY AND ON WHY SHE LOVES ALICE IN WONDERLAND.



PRODUCT DESIGNER

JENNY PINTO

When in your life did the love of design engulf you?

Design engulfs us all the time. It is up to us to either see it or not. I cannot remember a time when I was not fascinated by how things looked, or how some things made life simpler or more pleasurable, or how nature was so balanced, or how colour plays out in the scheme of things, or how perfectly designed our bodies are, I can go on and on...

You have been one of the first designers in India to work with handmade eco-friendly paper as a design material... how did you discover this humble and beautiful product and what prompted you to work with this medium?

I took paper for granted like most people did until I moved to Bangalore, quite literally in search of a material I wanted to work with. I was playing with clay and pottery then, when I accidentally met a hobby paper maker. I tried it because it seemed easy so I began to explore. It was when I began to explore paper and light, that it completely consumed me.

You have also been a green crusader for a long time... there have been drastic changes in people perception towards the subject now. Your take on the green wave that has enveloped all our lives...

I don't really see myself as a crusader. I have certain beliefs on sustainability and I am exploring them yet. Green wave? In a recent study it came up that, of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, 13 are in India. Until the majority of people are able to see how connected we all are to everything on the planet and how responsible each one of us is for environmental degradation, nothing will change.

Creating beautiful lamps out of handmade paper has always been your pet project... what are the other products you create out of natural fibers?

I used to make hand stitched books and stuff but now only paper lights. My paper is from banana fibre and I have used many other natural fibres to make paper as well, like pine apple, kora grass, mulberry, jute, water hyacinth, etc, but banana is my preferred fibre as it gives me the most translucent and gorgeous paper.

What are the projects (read, new collection/exhibitions) that is keeping you busy these days?

New collections are always in the pipeline. I am working on artworks with and from paper. That area is quite unexplored in India and its quite exciting. But what also keep me busy are civic activities. I like to engage with Bangalore's urban issues, and there are plenty! My pet project is greater and safer pedestrianization in our urban spaces.



ON A LIGHTER NOTE...

How do you unwind?

Cooking and travelling. I love cooking for friends and am working on a cook book right now. Travelling, specially driving or walking in a new and unfamiliar land, is the greatest pleasure of life. Give me an unknown road and a good set of walking shoes or wheels and I am in heaven!

One book you keep going back to?

Alice in Wonderland. Alice's imaginary crazy world is frighteningly close to the real one we live in and the book takes on new and different meaning as I read it again (and again).

A funny incident from your design career...

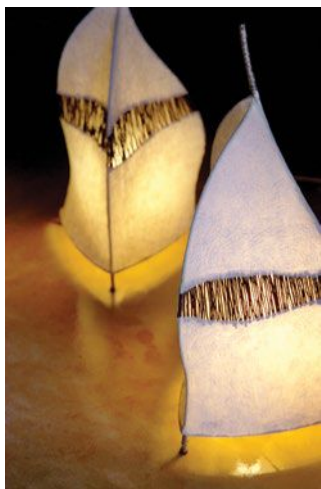
The studio once got two deliveries mixed up and both the consignments went to the wrong address. By the time we realized it, we had one livid client, but the other client got home to find that the contractor had installed most of them (that she hadn't ordered) but she loved them so much she refused to return them and we had a hard time dealing with the livid client.

Given a choice which country you would move to? And why?

Alice's Wonderland. Because life is curiouiser there!

The title of your autobiography would be?

Nonsense Rhyme



HIGH Five!

THERE ARE COUNTLESS AMUSING THINGS FOR A KID'S ROOM... BUT THE FIVE WALLPAPERS FROM VARIOUS BRANDS FEATURED HERE ARE DEFINITELY IRRESISTIBLE.

ZYNNA

Part of the Best Friend's Collection from Zynna, this wallpaper featuring various breeds of friendly dogs will bring a smile to even the poutiest of faces. Made up of natural palms, bamboo, grasses and paper weaves, the wallpapers in this series feature designs ranging from historic reproductions to tropical and chinoiserie patterns.



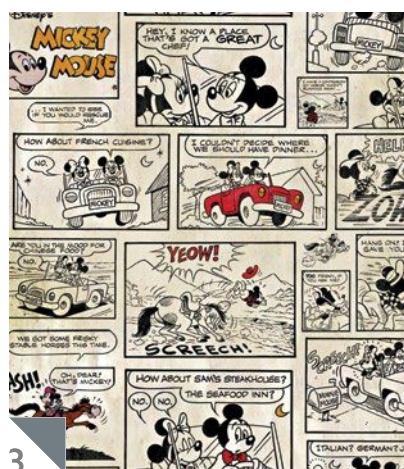
1



2

OYSTER MURAL

Make your walls come alive with this vivid piano mural that belongs to the Music Symphonies collection. Here, a number of hues denote various notes, timbres and tempos. The entire collection features music in the form of key notes, music reels, guitars and flutes all in bright hues. Green certified inks are used for digital printing on the wallpaper. For the wall application procedure, 200 gsm water activated adhesive matte paper is used.



3

PRIDE

Manufactured by Graham & Brown UK, the Funky Frames wallpaper belongs to the Kids @ Home Collection. This beauty allows your child to get their creative juices flowing. He can stick his favourite photos, postcards, artwork or even create his own family gallery. This wallpaper is crafted from paper and is spongeable.

₹ 75 per square feet onward



4

SURPRISE HOME LINEN

Manufactured by UK based brand Scion, The Little Fox Ginger wallpaper forms a part of the Spirit and Soul collection. This series of non-woven wallpapers also interprets a number of fabric designs — bold floral patterns, dramatic geometric patterns and small scale tie-dye spot motifs, being some of them.

₹ 6,500 per roll



5

PRIDE

This vintage themed wallpaper that belongs to the Mickey Mouse Minnie Mouse collection features everyone's favourite mouse on a trip down memory lane. Titled as Minnie and Mickies night out, this wallpaper showcases their mini night adventure in the form of a comic strip. This wallpaper comes from the famous UK-based brand Graham & Brown.

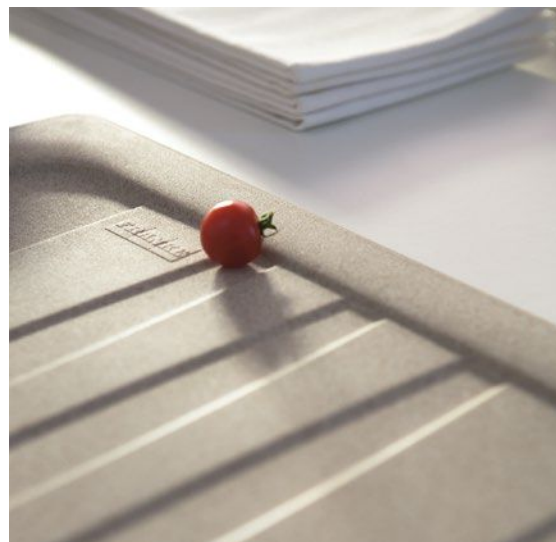
PICK of the Month

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND MYTHOS FUSION SINK FROM FRANKE SEES THE HARMONIOUS MARRIAGE OF STEEL WITH FRAGRANITE.

A HAPPY BLEND



REVIEWED BY: DEEPA NAIR; PHOTOGRAPHS: FRANKE INDIA



FRANKE'S NEWEST OFFERING IS AN EXCLUSIVE combination that only the brand can offer — Mythos Fusion Sinks — where the purity of steel meets the warmth of Fraganite. Here, three elegant steel details fuse perfectly with Fraganite. Following extensive testing and development, the new Fraganite tackles the humble cleaning problem associated with composite sinks. The integrated Sanitized hygiene function in Fraganite sinks helps to keep the sink clean and provides lasting protection. It does not replace normal cleaning but helps to keep surfaces free from bacteria. Tests have proven that Fraganite treated with Sanitized reduces bacteria and microbe growth by 99 per cent. The DuraKleen Plus feature in the sinks comes up trumps on stain resistance. Even after being left to sit on the sink for 18 hours, toughest stains like beetroot, permanent marker, red wine and iodine can simply be wiped clean.

Website: www.franke.com



IQRUP + RITZ

The latest furniture collections, Gymkhana and Chandigarh from Iqrup + Ritz include an assortment of shelves, side tables, sideboards, cabinets, armchairs, desk chairs and single seaters. Chandigarh has been inspired by the '50s stylish homes and includes an interesting and versatile storage range. Here, all the products are minimalist and chic with natural teak polish and brass finishes. Gymkhana features a more modern edge; a contemporary take on British colonial style. The line-up incorporates colours such as tough black, classic brown and dark ash. Featured here is the lavish Chandigarh Shelf in earthy browns with a pop of gold and the Gymkhana cabinet in a weathered black finish with bespoke brass handles.

Take your pick from sleek furniture, traditional cushions, functional wall compositions...



GRANDEUR INTERIORS

Grandeur Interiors has introduced Italian brand Pianca's latest furniture collection which promises to economize space. Pianca's Spazieoteca collection of wall compositions can transform a humble bookshelf into an all-purpose entertainment, display and storage unit. With innumerable design options to choose from, the range can also be customized. Available in an array of colours, the collection features wood, mirror, glass and slate in its designs too. Spazieoteca comes in matt and high-gloss finishes. Lastly, the modules can be made according to different depth requirements.



SPACIO

The new collection titled Copper — The New Gold Standard from Spacio consists of mirrors, wall murals, vases and tabletop decor pieces. In order to capitalize on the metals growing popularity and worth, the company has introduced this range. On offer is the geometric pattern wall mural called Esperanto which is hand-finished with intriguing surface treatments, paints and patinas. The ensemble of Copper vases (featured here) made from copper electroplate ceramic make for lovely display items. Another key piece is the Copper mirror finished in faux copper.

ETRE LUXE

Famous Italian brand Porro is now available exclusively with high end luxury brand Etre Luxe. The company follows the philosophy of simplicity above all and is therefore known for its essential and immediately identifiable language with simple signs, geometries and shapes. What makes the furniture stand out is that each piece is uniquely designed by different product designers. For instance, Balancing Boxes (created by Swedish design house Front), is a small table consisting of a series of irregularly placed white or black boxes (metal or wood), as though balancing in space. Another interesting piece is Mikado, a unit sideboard, (designed by Front, again) which consists of a double layer of wood slates, bent and crossed allowing one to see the inside. The unit is raised from the floor through a wood base unit which is aesthetically light but structurally consistent.





SHAZE

Shaze has unveiled two new exciting ranges of products. The first is a collection of Italian crafted boxes that make for a perfect table adornment. Topped off with inlay work, these multi-hued beauties are crafted from Maplewood, mahogany and poplar. The second offering is an assortment of 51 limited-edition dancing Ganesha figurines (priced at ₹ 1,52,000) where each piece is intricately designed. This sculpture of Ganesha is the 15th dancing form of the 32 different forms of the deity. Here, the lotus and the lord's hand mudras symbolize enlightenment and creativity. Cast in resin, these pieces are polished in electroformed silver and gold.



STUDIO CREO

Calligaris, the Italian decor brand has introduced the Honeycomb chair and Sami chair, both available at Studio Creo. Finished in the ash, solid wood and walnut wood, these lightweight and classy products are also available in a plethora of fresh colours like aquamarine, mustard yellow, aubergine and purple. The Honeycomb is made from polypropylene (hence 100 per cent recyclable). It is also perfect for alfresco use due to its water resistance property and UV filter treatment, which protects it from colour fading and deterioration. The Sami, available in a barstool variant as well, sports hexagonal patterns and cross-stitches on its edge. The beautifully quilted and comfortable cushioned seat is upholstered in pure cotton.



INV HOME

The new furniture collection from InV Home comprises a wide range of distinct furniture. There are intricately hand-painted side tables, floral fabricated sofas, teak wood consoles and pouffes in plush leathers and velvets. The sophisticated collection which is sure to add more drama to your living spaces feature earthy browns, vivid blacks and glittering golds. Our favourites are the Queen B Hocker (₹ 65,500), a stylish and elegant round console and the Bean Stool (₹ 31,000), shaped like a bean in sparkling gold.



BEYOND DESIGN

Beyond designs has a new range of beautiful furniture for your home; right from sofas, chandeliers, ottomans, chairs to coffee tables, consoles, beds and other decor accessories. The line-up showcases a perfect blend of opulence and comfort. A highlight is the Chesterfield sofa (₹ 1,85,000) that's upholstered in rich red velvet. Another favourite is the wooden console with an antique gold finish (₹ 1,80,000) a tabletop with hand-cut mirror tiles. Lastly, there's an exquisite coffee table crafted from wood (₹ 2,40,000) that sports a tabletop with semi-precious stones.

ALCHEMY DE LUXE

This monsoon, treat your home to a new collection of home products by Alchemy De Luxe called Colour Splash. This collection consists of decorative trays, photo-frames, lamps, enchanting jewellery boxes and petite jars. All of the pieces are made of pure silver embellished with orange, coral and tangerine flowers. Each and every piece is carefully designed and handcrafted with hammer blows alone without the help of any machines. Our favourite is the Silver Jewellery Boxes, simple and delicate, that comes alive with a coral flower accent.



ADDRESS HOME

Address Home's recently launched Bohemian cushion covers are available in an array of vivid colours showcasing bold ikat patterns. The Boho Marakesh embroidered cushion cover miniaturizes the colour-block souk of Marakesh. Another product, the Boho Talita takes its cues from a kaftan owned by Talita Getty, the founder of the Bohemian style. In addition there's the Boho Bali that features an ancient pattern native to the Asian region, which is beautifully embroidered using a pop art palette. Then there's the bright-hued Boho Islington, an embroidered cushion cover that is inspired by the free thinking London suburb of the same name.



Mini Adventure

This month we round up a list of functional furniture, fun and frolic furnishings and quirky accessories to create a personal wonderland for your little one. We also went a step ahead and distributed our selection into three age groups — babies, adolescents and teenagers. What you got to do now? Just sit back and choose your picks... with your kids of course!

ANCHORED BY: SHRADHA SHAHANI; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY THE STORES





Alchemy De Luxe

Let your little one get mesmerized with the wonder and joy of the musical baby rattles' tunes. They are crafted from natural ebony wood and 92.5 sterling silver.

Price on request



The Pipal

Monkeys, lions, zebras, tigers and elephants... let your child indulge in fantasies with the Jungle Friends Crib. It is made from pure cotton and sports corduroy, velvet and cotton animal appliques on them.

₹ 5,099



Elvy Lifestyle

Cherish your tot's memories with the timeless Blush frames made from alloy and coated with enamel.

₹ 1,595



Frazer and Haws

A beveled glass plate holds a broken egg and a chick in sterling silver. To captivate your toddler, the little bird is fixed on a spring to playfully wiggle at the slightest touch.

₹ 16,100



Sanctum

Make learning fun for your child with this handcrafted numbered patchwork cushion cover.

₹ 890



Lakdi Ki Kathi

Hazel Heaven, the classic crib has storage space for your tot's toys and has ample space to securely and comfortably let your little one sleep in peace.

₹ 16,499



Zynna

Part of the Ambiente collection, the cotton and polyester blend cushion cover with cowboys and giraffes, adds a sense of whimsy to this space.

Price on request



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

Always be cheerful and happy, is the message the Smiley Wonder collection seems to spell out. Quilts, cushions and organizers form a part of this pure cotton series.

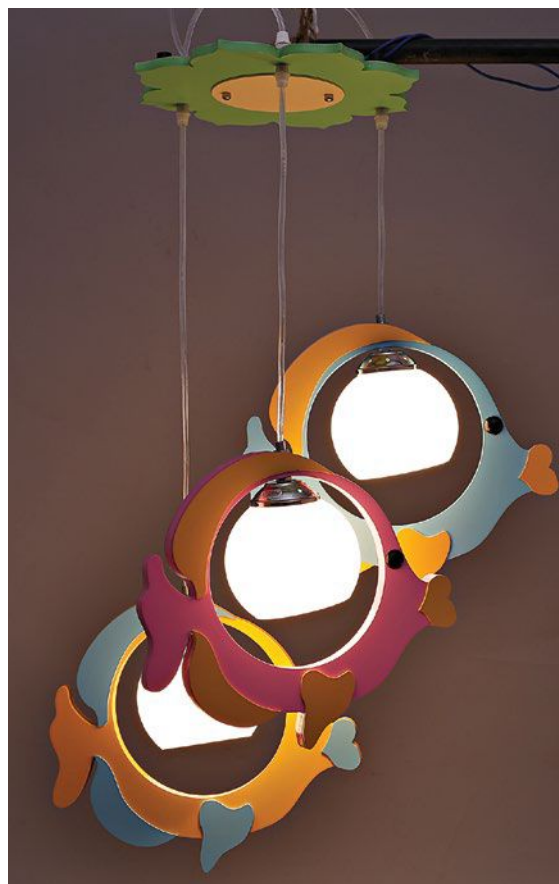
₹ 600 onward



Alex Daisy

Let your precious baby be part of all the action at meal times with this foldable pinewood high chair.

₹ 5,750



Fab Furnish

A school of illuminated fish will swim merrily above your baby's bed every time the wind blows. The colourful fishes with light fixtures are made from MDF and hang from a wooden circle.

₹ 2,999



Alchemy De Luxe

Display some of your child's sweetest memories in this sterling silver photo-frame that features colourful enamel butterflies.

Price on request



Elvy Lifestyle

These two tiny beauties made from alloy and coated with enamel, will make sure you preserve your little one's first tooth and curl forever.

₹ 995 onward



The Purple Turtles

Along with adding a pop of colour to the room, this pouffe that's been upcycled from cane is incredibly comfortable and luxurious.

₹ 9,245



Frazer and Haws

Pamper your child with these lovely baby spoons. The one below is made from sterling silver and sports a half moon finished in 24-karat gold gilt that's embossed on the curved handle. The other one made with sterling silver sports a carved octopus.

₹ 9,000 each



The Pipal

The pretty-in-pink Cherry Blossom crib has been spun out of pure cotton. The sun, flowers and two little birds appliqued from corduroy, velvet and cotton will watch over your baby.

₹ 8,299



Peek-a-Boo Patterns

Get ready to hop onto a safari with your infant as this lovely collection will introduce every animal anew to her. The series consists of cushions, bean chairs, quilts and diaper stacks and are made from pure cotton.

₹ 600 onward



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

Part of the ABC collection, this cushion cover is made from cotton and stuffed with polyfil.

₹ 1,500



Wudplay

This baby crib titled Clover is made from teak and can be converted into a sofa by simply sliding the railing.

₹ 10,700



Peek-a-Boo Patterns

The cow and pig appliqués on these curtain tie-backs seem to be eagerly waiting to greet your little one.

₹ 800 (set of two)



Child Space

Transform your kid's room into a galaxy of pink stars with this beautiful collection crafted from engineered wood. It consists of a bed accompanied by a side table, a wardrobe and a large desk.

Price on request



Zynna

Part of the Ambiente collection, the comforter and curtains made from cotton and polyester sport pandas and oriental dolls to create magic in any corner of your house.

Price on request



D'Decor

Your child will look forward to sleep time thanks to this exciting Cars 2 bed sheet and comforter spun out of cotton.

₹ 1,695 (single bed sheet), ₹ 2,695 (double bed sheet), ₹ 2,995 (comforter)



Lakdi Ki Kathi

These custom capital letters contain multiple shelf space and are made from high grade commercial board.

₹ 4,999 (per letter)



Anemos

The quirky ceiling light in the form of a cyclist pedaling is made from acrylic and glass.

₹ 9,800



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

This lovely fenced doll house is a fun way to store, scribble and play. The chalkboard can be used to make handy notes and the roof above has pink triangles painted on it. It is made from high density fibre along with steam beech wood.

₹ 25,037



Studio Creo

The multifunctional marvel from Calligaris can be used as a stool, a children's armchair, low table or a modular book-base. The crosses spotted on the plastic sides are not merely for decoration but help to stack the product neatly.

₹ 15,065



The Furniture Republic

Lazing around gets more enjoyable with these attractive knitted Polo Poufs. Made from recycled cotton, they are available in chirpy colours such as coral, grey, aqua and yellow.

₹ 6,500



The Purple Turtles

These quirky pendant bird lamps are perfect for those nature loving adolescents. Crafted from wood and metal, they are handcrafted by the Channapatna wood turnery method.

₹ 1,850



Villeroy and Boch

This charming ensemble of cereal bowls, mugs, thermal jars, flat plates, deep plates, spoons, forks and knives belong to the Kiddy Bears Collection. The series features little bears and appetizing fresh fruits. The crockery is made from premium porcelain whereas the cutlery is made from stainless steel.

Price on request



Montage

No two candles made by the candle makers of Swaziland, Africa are alike. An exhibit of their series is this adorable blue rhino crafted from special hard wax, to obtain the colour. ₹ 200 onward



Fab Furnish

Your little one's bed sheet and pillow covers made from cotton will now have his/her favourite cartoon character prancing around. ₹ 1,600



The Pipal

Cars, trucks and airplanes... familiarize your little one with all the modes of transport in a fun way. Made from pure cotton, the bed set is applique with motifs in velvet, cotton and corduroy. ₹ 3,699



Tranceforme

Perk up your mantel by placing this cute Origami bear made from polyresin. ₹ 1,250



Furniture 4 kids

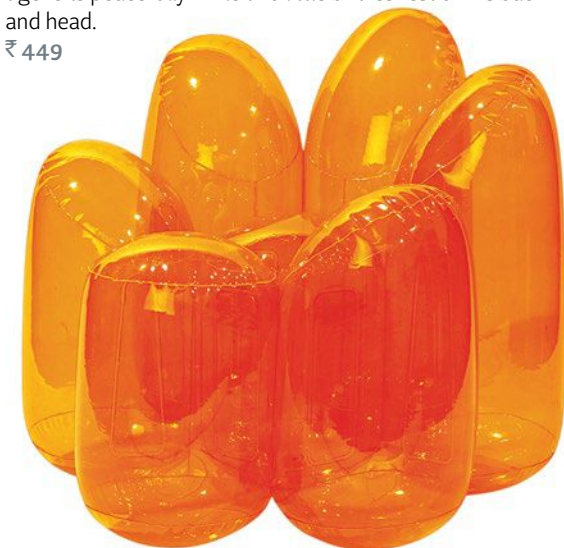
This standard bunk bed which will help you save on space can also be chopped off into two separate beds once the kids outgrow them. Made from pinewood, the product also has two slots for storage. ₹ 48,200



India Circus

Never before has the mighty roaring lion looked more adorable than this! Made from coir and rubber, this doormat features a fresh green lawn where a powerful tiger sits peacefully while two little birdies rest on his back and head.

₹ 449



Roche Bobois

Titled Airflower and designed by Fabrice Berrux, this amusing chair is an inflatable armchair made from PVC. It has an optional electric pump and is available in transparent, orange and crystal colours.

₹ 19,370



Somany Ceramics

Convert the bathroom into a wonderland for your kids with the amusing ceramic Glosstra tiles that belong to the Crayola Range.

₹ 65 onward (per square feet)



InV Home

Introduce your kid to friendly dinosaurs with the help of this vibrant porcelain breakfast set.

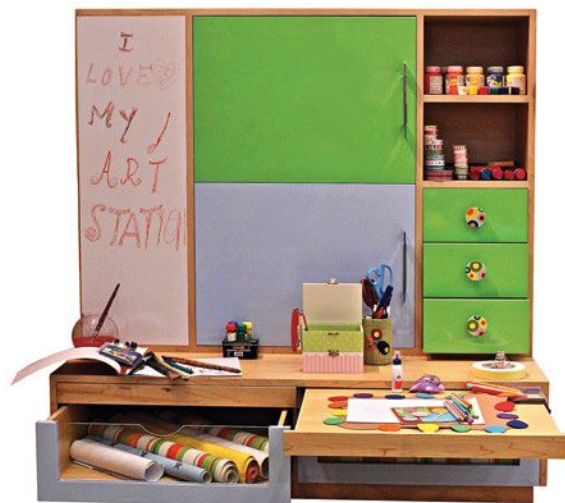
₹ 3,995



Spaces Home & Beyond

Tap into flower power with these vibrant mats that belong to the Fun Mat collection. Printed with chromojet, the surfaces of the mats have nylon loops while the other side is backed with anti-skid latex.

₹ 500 onward



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

For the artistically-inclined one's, this organizer made from plywood is a must have. Be it your art papers, books, stationery games or trophies... all and more find the right place to stay.

₹ 51,000



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

Let your child experience the diverse culture of India with this gorgeous collection of cushion covers and curtain tie-backs from the Amazing India collection. Made from cotton, these covers feature appliques of peacocks, elephants, fishes and paisley patterns with a traditional Indian touch.

₹ 600 onward



The Furniture Republic

Forgetting alphabets will nearly be impossible for your child due to this vibrant rug created from wool.

₹ 13,000 (140 cm X 200 cm); ₹ 17,000 (160 cm X 230 cm)



The Purple Turtles

Infuse rustic charm with these vintage elephant pendant lights crafted from wood, metal and lac.

₹ 1,450



Furniture 4 kids

This two door wardrobe created from pinewood and rubber wood will add the right amount of brightness to your toddler's room.

₹ 36,800



Fab Furnish

Hearts and whimsical patterns adorn the Disney Princess toddler bed made from plastic and metal. An addition to the bed, the side panels make it a safe furniture piece so that your child snoozes off peacefully.

₹ 8,999



Lakdi ki Kathi

This large, split tapered box made from high grade commercial boards and veneers is a parent's dream. At the perfect height for tots to pull out or put back belongings, you can teach little one's early on how to organize toys, books and more.

₹ 6,499



Fab Furnish

Instil tidiness from the very beginning with this sweet organizer that sports a deer on it. Made from polyester and cardboard, the multipurpose organizer can be used to store textbooks or even toys.

₹ 1,999



Surprise Home Linen

The Pom Pom cushion covers will lend cheerfulness to any space. Individual pockets of traditional Indian cotton fabric are filled and stitched on the surface of the cushion to achieve this funky look.

₹ 850



Baaya Design

An ideal piece for the artistically-inclined children, this nestling table made from sheesham wood sports deers in Gond art.

₹ 59,000



Anemos

Light up your child's face with this enchanting mini carousel. It has 19 bulbs as well as LED lights and is made from acrylic and plastic.

₹ 25,000



Anemos

This rocket shaped light is bound to ignite a child's imagination. It is made from acrylic and metal.

₹ 12,000



Rang Rage

Here is a miniature hand-painted canvas with hands pointing out the time so that your child never runs late to school.

₹ 1,999



Baaya Design

Recreate the magic of the wilderness indoors now. Taking its cue from the Gondwana forests, this bench is artfully crafted from sheesham wood using the Gond art form.

₹ 38,100



Dhoop

Here is a super cool photo frame to display those treasured moments. Made from recycled wood and fabric, the frame has an elastic thread running across the frame with clips to hang photos.

Price on request



Sanctum

Add some humour to your abode by hanging this on your child's room door. It is made from acrylic.

₹ 499



Roche Bobois

The brainchild of Sacha Ladic, the bright Bubble sofa has a wooden frame and is upholstered in Techno 3D fabric (made from black jersey material to hold its shape). Onto this fabric honeycomb wool is applied for an incredibly soft feel.

₹ 3,64,095



Freedom Tree Design

Make your teenagers time spent organizing stuff worthwhile with this offbeat Drawer Mill cabinet made from metal.

₹ 16,600



Surprise Home Linen

Bring back the age of the Cadillac with these retro printed cushion covers made from cotton.

₹ 695



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

Bring out your teens inner fashionista with these little hot pink and green beauties made from silk.

₹ 600 onward

Indian August

Ideal for those youngsters who are crazy about sun signs, these cushion covers are made from cotton while the design is obtained using the Madhubani painting technique.

₹ 750



Zynna

This ensemble of nautical printed cushion covers and curtains made from pure cotton will appeal to the budding mariners.

Price on request



Furniture 4 kids

Here's a way to stop your stubborn kid from hanging posters of his favourite footballer on the walls. He can now have them on the headboard of his bed. The pull-out bed is made from pinewood and rubberwood. The print on the headboard is open to customization.

₹ 22,400



InV Home

Make your budding mariner's dream seem closer with this wooden boat artefact that can be placed along the mantel or on his study table.

₹ 1,85,000



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

There's nothing better than a gaming theme to define a teenager's room. Made from cotton, the series consists of cushion covers and quilts.

₹ 600 onward



Freedom Tree Design

The assortment of cotton cushion covers in different shades of green, blue and grey along with the bright-hued sofa will create a cosy little corner in a teenager's room.

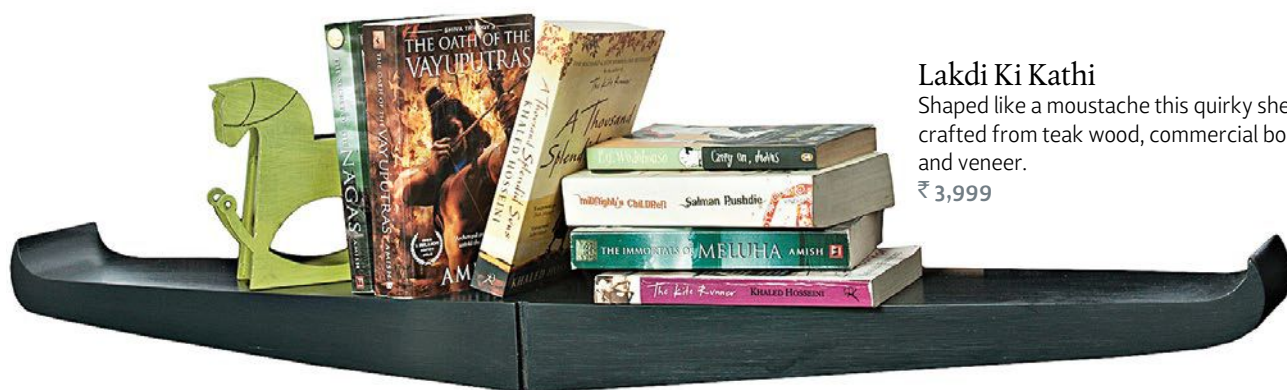
₹ 38,000 (sofa), ₹ 390 onward (cushion covers)



Alex Daisy

Simple and functional, this corner desk offers a large work space and features drawers, cubbies and compartments to simplify work. The angular side extension has a key board slide, and the top can be used to keep a desktop.

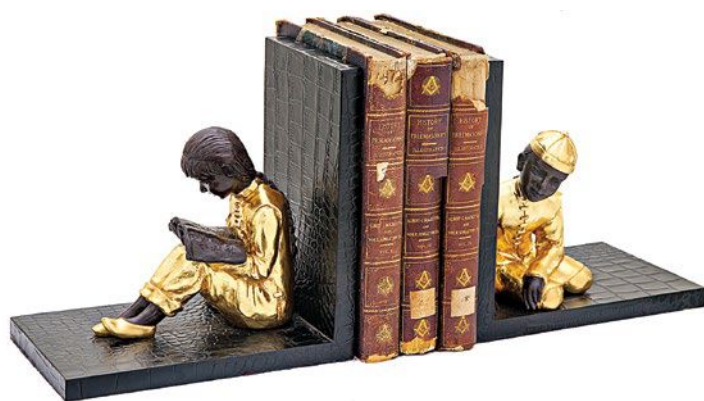
₹ 32,950



Lakdi Ki Kathi

Shaped like a moustache this quirky shelf is crafted from teak wood, commercial board and veneer.

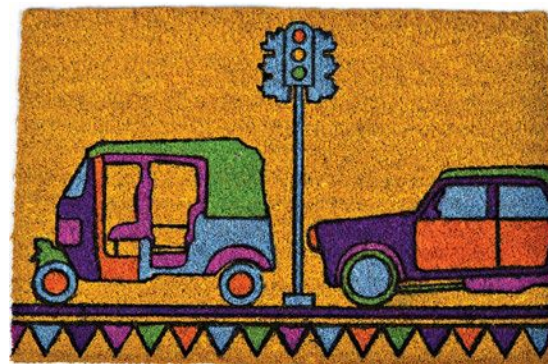
₹ 3,999



The Great Eastern Home

Here's a classic book holder to keep those classics together. The figurines are cast in bronze and the base is made from embossed leather.

Price on request



India Circus

Cars honking, auto rickshaws zipping their way through and traffic signals going off... the Busy Street doormat perfectly depicts the life in a metro city. It is made from coir and rubber.

₹ 449



The Purple Turtles

These stunning clusters of lamps are made from polyester and feature laser-cut patterns on them.

₹ 3,450 onward



Sanctum

Dream catchers, the native American charms are hand woven with the intention of creating love and positivity. They are made by hanging feathers around a metal ring.

₹ 600 onward



Studio Creo

The light-in-weight yet sturdy basil chairs are made from polypropylene and metal.

Price on request



Frazer and Haws

What better way to adore old memoirs than this pretty pink frame? The wooden photo frame has hand pierced butterflies in sterling silver, fluttering away.

₹ 8,500



Rang Rage

This gorgeous canvas clock features a peacock, hand-painted with fine cone work embossing. The back of the clock is made from MDF.

₹ 1,999



Baaya Design

This beautiful bookshelf captures the essence of the Gondwana forests. Made from sheesham wood, it features Gond art.

₹ 40,750



Dhoop

The bowl, mug and plate that belong to the Owlistic collection feature adorable owls adorned with Indian jewellery. The concept was conceptualized by product designer Aradhana Nagpal, whereas these beauties are hand painted by artist Heeral Akhary using Gond Art.

₹ 680 (mug); ₹ 880 (bowl); ₹ 940 (plate)



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

Studying becomes less of drudgery with this stylish study unit made from HDF. The handles are made of rope and the drawers below are on wheels making it easily accessible.

₹ 1,11,693



The Purple Turtles

This retrievable wall-mounted table made from teak wood can be pulled down when need be and folded back when not in use. Besides saving on space, it can also be use for storage.

₹ 42,000



Indian August

There's no better way to bring an element of fun into a teenagers room than a pair of *moochads*. The yellow and off-white cushion covers show off its *Chanderi* embroidery.

₹ 795 onward



Roche Bobois

Designed by Sacha Lakic, the chic Edito armchair is made from Techno 3D fabric coupled with Sierra leather. The chair is accompanied by a matching Ottoman.

Price on request



Fab Furnish

An otherwise dull leather bean bag gets a fun twist with these helicopters imprinted on a bright blue hue.

₹ 2,999



Peek-A-Boo Patterns

Two things define good children's furnishing — vivid hues and a fun element. The Doodle Dude set of cushions made from cotton has both.

₹ 600 onward

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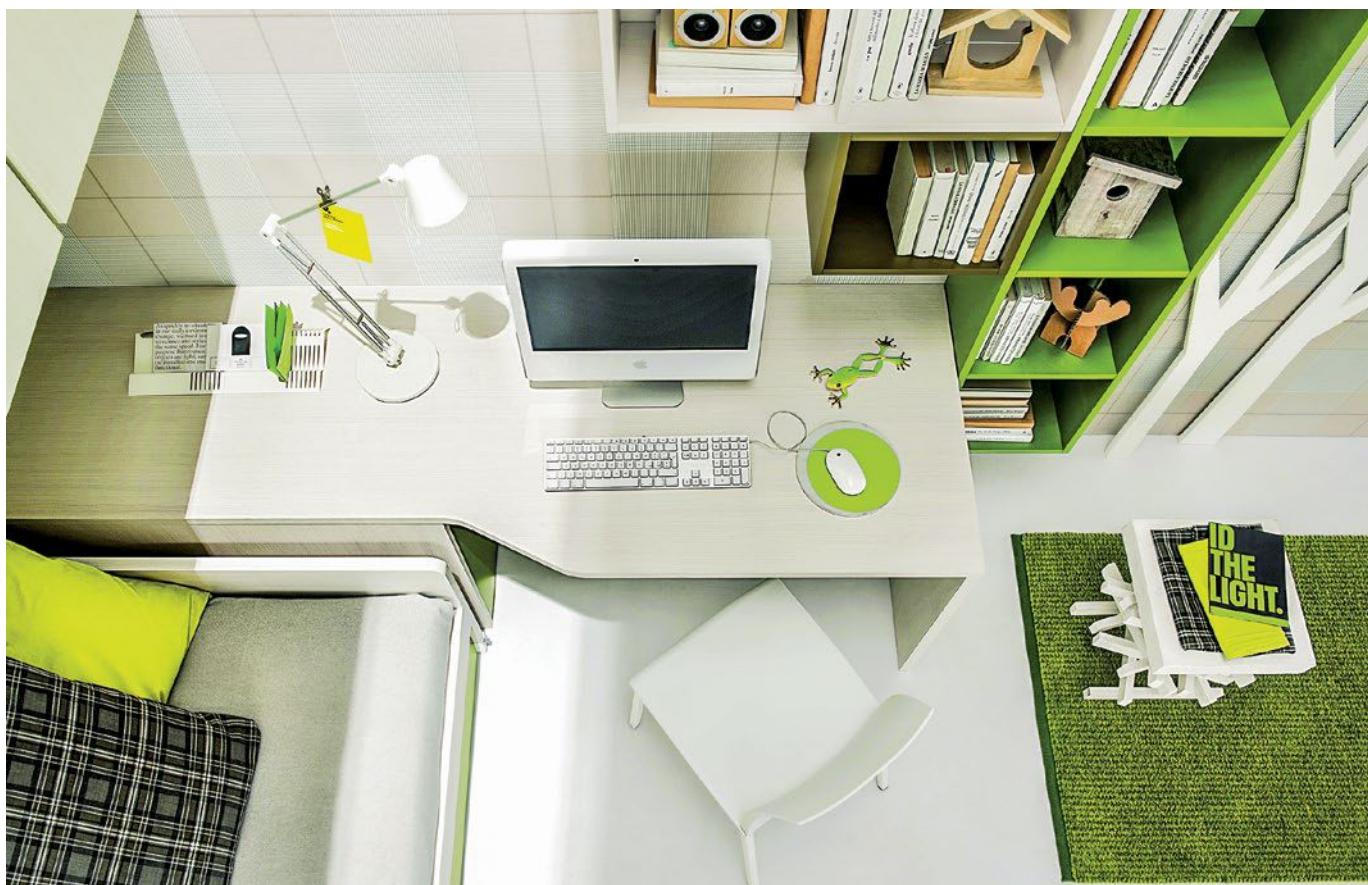
A Green Imprint

Moving away from traditional pinks and blues and embracing the bright and spunky neon green are these kid's room settings by Villa Veneta Kids. Called the Start collection, the designers worked with this quirky hue as research found that neon green sparks creativity in children.

ANCHORED BY: DEEPA NAIR; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY CC INDIA; LOCATION: COURTESY VENETA CUCINE, BANGALORE







When we heard that CC India who brings to us one of India's most celebrated modular kitchen brands Veneta Cucine has launched a brand new division for kid's in the Indian market; it was definitely music to ears. The company's 20 years of experience in the industry, having expertise in modular living room and kitchen solutions, with over 20 stores across the country, was ample enough to think highly about the new line-up they were bringing for the children's space. CC India has a strategic alliance with one of Italy's premier modular brand, Veneta Cucine, and through this alliance, the company has the exclusive rights to promote and sell all Veneta Cucine products in India. And their latest feather on the hat is Villa Veneta Kids.

Villa Veneta Kids furniture consists of Kiddie, Pre-teen, and Teen bedroom compositions which include innumerable options in beds, study tables, wardrobes, fancy knobs and handles. The company believes that kids today have a mind of their own with a strong sense of likes and dislikes. Therefore, at Villa Veneta Kids, the drawing boards are not just for their designers; but for the kids (from ages 2-19) to give their suggestions, thoughts and ideas of how they perceive their dream room. Villa

Veneta Kids' offerings focus on both aesthetics and functionality (in the available space) that address today's needs, while respecting the environment and quality, to achieve a system that nurtures a child and teaches him/her to be free thinking, creative and responsible adults.

Coming to the products, the Villa Veneta Kids furniture are realized in eco-friendly melamine panels, satisfying all European and American formaldehyde emission requirements. These panels are manufactured through recycled wooden materials, avoiding the cutting down of new trees. The "100 per cent Recycled" stamp is guaranteed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). All paints used for lacquered colours are non-toxic, water-based and dried by UV exposure. These paints don't contain antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and selenium, making it safe for children. Besides, thanks to the use of Silver Defence additives, the lacquered surfaces turn antibacterial and self-clean. Another highlight is the soft closing system in the drawers which guarantees a long life span to the furniture.

As part CC India's 20th anniversary celebration, in this launch year of Villa Veneta Kids, the company is offering the children's bedroom compositions starting from ₹ 1,50,000. Villa Veneta Kids are available across 14 cities in India.

Techniques





- 1 Apt for an adolescent's room which is frequented by friends, this lacquered bed set has a neatly concealed pull out bed. With this combination, one could also customize a pull-out nightstand with wheels, which can be tucked away smoothly when not required.
- 2 Wardrobes (floor-to-ceiling) and the bridge system ones (cupboards that go over the bed) can be tailor-made with a choice of wardrobe systems, hinges, knobs and handles.

- 3 Space optimization is also key... check out the toy storage option which can be neatly hidden away in a corner. One can also create drawer units as part of the study desk.
- 4 This smart shelf comes with a wall panel. Display your collection of books, photographs, knick-knacks, toys or make room for a mini aquarium or terrarium. Go with one solid hue or mix and match hues to create a statement piece. One could also ask for a mix of cupboard and shelving in any permutation combination from the designers.
- 5 The design of the no-nonsense straight lined double-sided desk with chair allows easy accessibility. The option of free-standing desks, ones lined with the walls of the bedroom or a simple cantilevered one is also in the offering.
- 6 These storage drawers accommodated in the wardrobe sports two shades of green — it stands testimony to the 700 colour options available with Villa Veneta Kids for a child's room.

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{CentreStage}



Terrific Trilogy

A stunning heritage *haveli* in Ahmedabad restored to perfection, a bespoke contemporary abode in Mumbai and a immaculate shell for a gallery situated in Mumbai... three striking spaces that will leave you wanting more.



- ▶ From using mixed media to natural stones to render a feel that's high on craftsmanship, this beautiful Mumbai apartment by interior designer Sumesh Menon flaunts a style that's entirely its own.
- ▶ Read the encouraging and interesting story of an old run-down heritage *haveli* in Ahmedabad which gets a new lease of life thanks to the City Heritage Centre, Ahmedabad. While architect Hardik Patel makes sure that the interiors of the restored haveli is fit for contemporary living.
- ▶ The Tarq Gallery housed in a heritage space is designed on the lines of subtlety and simplicity by interior designer Kunal Shah — it attempts to amicably house art without overpowering it.

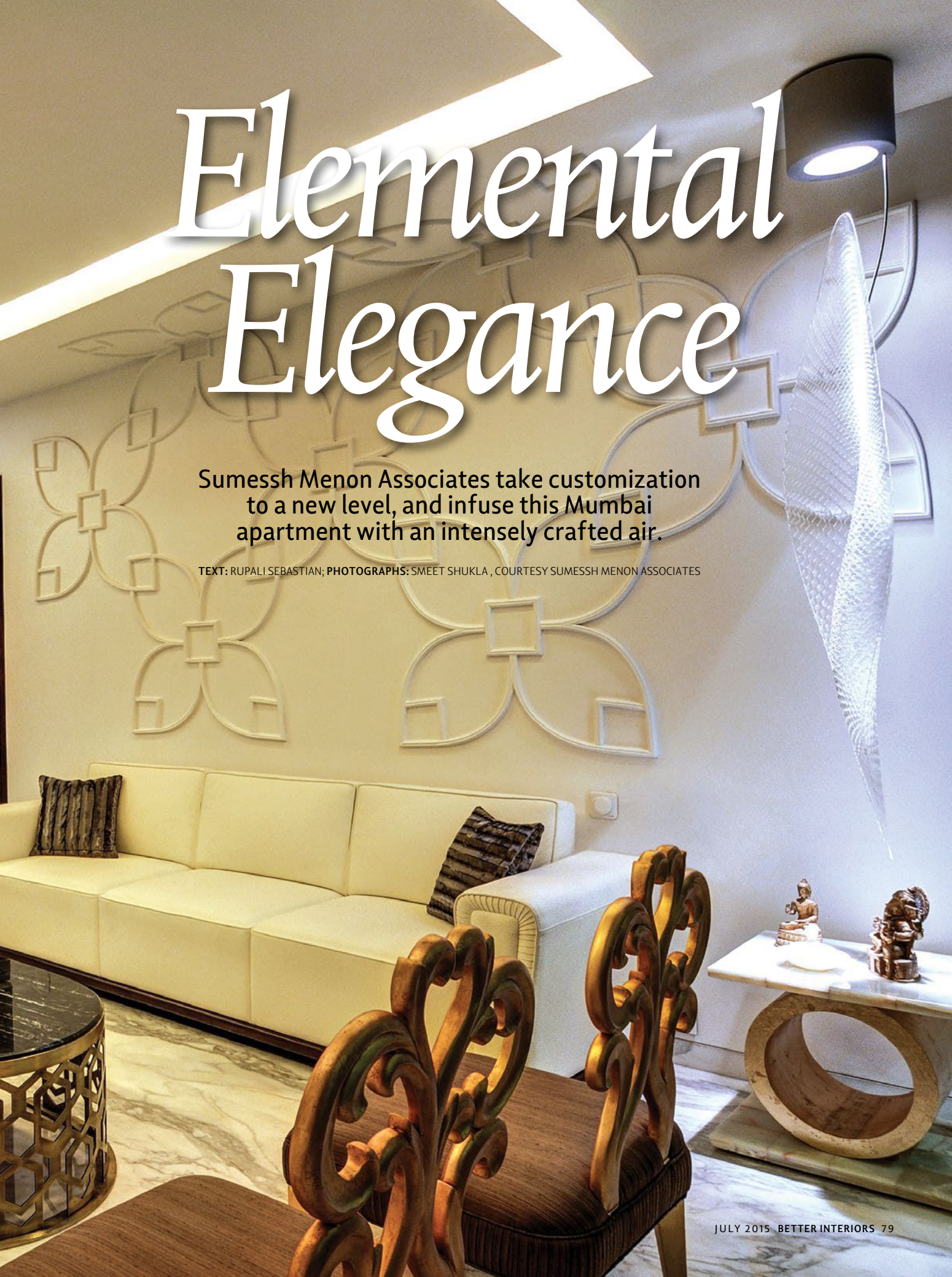


The public domain is divided into the dining area with a bar to the side and the living room. The former sees a play of materials and textures, while the latter is relatively sedate. The thread of continuity between the two, however, are the gold accents in the furniture and the light fixtures.

Elemental Elegance

Sumessh Menon Associates take customization to a new level, and infuse this Mumbai apartment with an intensely crafted air.

TEXT: RUPALI SEBASTIAN; PHOTOGRAPHS: SMEET SHUKLA, COURTESY SUMESSH MENON ASSOCIATES





ABOVE LEFT The front door features a brass panel embossed with a damask motif flanked by a collage of pieces of tobacco brown Italian marble laid horizontally and vertically, interspersed with handcrafted Burma-teak panels. Stepping in, the impact of the black Marquina marble trapezoid inlay in the white Statuariois dramatic.

ABOVE RIGHT The outdoor deck, a warm and informal extension of the living area, has tobacco brown Italian marble flooring, a back-lit wooden trellis on the ceiling, sculptural wall with a rough bumpy texture and Indonesian rattan furniture.



INTERIOR DESIGNER

Sumesh Menon

You know your work speaks for yourself when people, previously unacquainted with you, keenly go through your portfolio and put their stamp of approval by awarding you with a commission. This is exactly how a Mumbai-based family decided to entrust the task of designing their expansive 4BHK apartment to Sumesh Menon Associates. “They saw my work for a restaurant in Manhattan and one in Mumbai, plus an apartment at Worli Seaface,” says interior designer Sumesh Menon when quizzed about how he landed this job. The project entailed converting a typical, builder-provided, assembly-line flat into something that would “reflect an upmarket lifestyle, be creative and innovative, and have a different look in every room”... words extracted from the clients’ wishlist. Barring that, it was largely up to the designer to embody these intangibles into an aesthetic entity that would draw appreciative murmurs during the regular ‘dos’ that the clients were keen on hosting in their home.

The spatial arrangement was mostly left untouched as, “I don’t believe in reclaiming sunken slabs; they’re sure to cause a problem

sooner or later,” says Sumesh. The minor tweaks that did happen, however, include changing the direct entry of the bathrooms into the bedrooms. “We created an anteroom of sorts to avoid this,” discloses the designer. They also enlarged the kitchen by borrowing space from an adjacent utility passage, and created a study in place of the fourth — and obsolete — bedroom. “The clients needed two bedrooms for themselves, a master and a children’s room, and the third room became the guest room. Therefore there was no need for an additional bedroom.”

Were you to break down the programmatic arrangement into an easy-to-understand format, you’d get, starting from the entrance and with the part-imaginary, part-reality passage that originates from it as the central axis, the study (the erstwhile fourth bedroom) and the kitchen to the left and the guest room to the right; followed by the dining area/bar to the left with the living room and its attendant outdoor deck across that block; and finally the private domain comprising the son’s room on the left and the master bedroom on the right.

Sumesh chose the word bespoke as a convergent point between the demands for an



TOP The geometric forms — prisms, lattices and faceted surfaces — that dominate this section are actually echoes of the faceted console whose top is seen in the photograph. A Meseiro chandelier is suspended over a dining table whose edge features a fusion of glass and mirror.

ABOVE A white-on-white motif, rendered in MDF, graces the wall behind the sofa in the living room and climbs on to the ceiling.

upmarket space, creativity and innovation. He treated this project as common ground for art and decor, where surfaces became recipients of eye-catching treatments, and furniture and lighting fixtures were created or chosen to fit the stylish, customized theme. Commensurate with the nature of the scheme, materials became points of intense scrutiny. “For instance, the clients wanted only the best marble for the floor. After much hunting and checking (people palm off other stone under this name), we finally laid our hands on genuine Statuario,” reminisces Sumessh. Similarly, the onyx that was to go up in the entrance couldn’t be the regular Tiger Onyx that one sees commonly, but a difficult-to-source variety, with the final selection bearing dramatic grains that glow like streaks of lighting when back-lit.

Which brings us to the points of aesthetic debate between the designer and his clients that this project bore witness to, notwithstanding the carte blanche given to the former. “The onyx is a case in point. The clients were keen on back-lit onyx, but for me that orangey glow would’ve been too reminiscent of sundry hospitality projects, especially if we’d used the regular variety. So



CONCEPT: To create a highly customized home that would be luxurious yet functional. To employ mixed media and natural stone that would render a feel that was high on craftsmanship, materiality and atmosphere.

while I was okay with the idea of backlighting, I did insist on something different. The showstopper therefore became this large sheet of back-lit lightening onyx stretching across the passage wall, which when lit up from behind resembles fissures of burning hot magma seeping out through cracks on the earth's crust (or as the name suggests, lightening streaking across a stormy sky). My clients got their backlit onyx and I got what I wanted," Sumessh smiles. The second space that took a bit of convincing was the son's room, which the designer enjoyed working on the most. He went for a masculine look, dominated by greys and wood tones. "The clients thought it would turn out very drab and were very skeptical about the entire look. But once the materials were given their final finishing, the real beauty emerged, much to their satisfaction... and mine."

Thinking of a bespoke theme that married art into decor was all very well, but this intensely crafted space needed craftsmen for it to reach

its aesthetic conclusion. "That was a challenge," reveals Sumessh. "We had to source people from different places... The door of the pooja area needed someone from Jaipur; that of the main entrance needed a person from Delhi. There was mirror-work,

MATERIALS

Flooring Stataurio marble (living/dining), hardwood sourced Beautex (bedrooms)
Walls Paint (throughout the home), Lightening onyx (entrance lobby), MDF cut-outs (living room), wooden paneling (dining area), wallpaper (guest room), Serpeggiante marble (son's bathroom) and subway tiles (kitchen dado)
Headboards Leather **Lighting** Meseiro (dining), Artemide (living), Flos (guest room). Flos and Philips (downlighters, pinspots and wall-washers) **Furniture** Wood, glass, mirror and stone

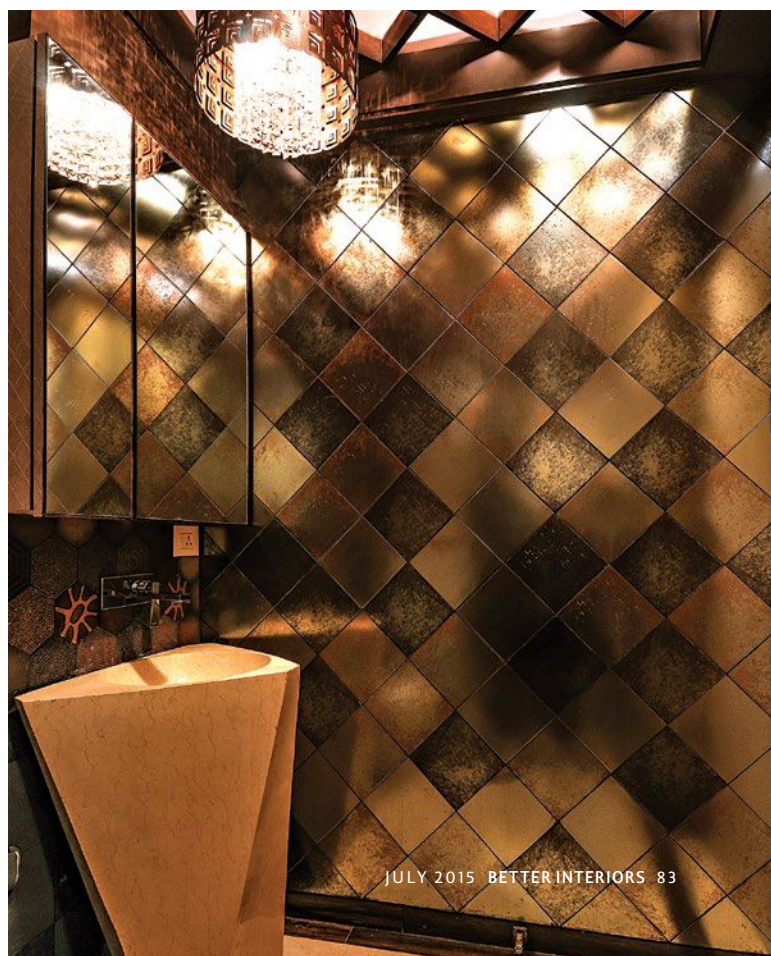
CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE LEFT A pair of gold-leafed paintings depicting the left and right palms and dating back to the 17th century forms the focus of the dining area. The grey lacquered and faceted sideboard with a grey onyx top is adorned with customized dye-cast and gold-plated handles.

Woven bent-ply sliding shutters replace curtains at the window, in what is recognized as Sumessh's signature style.

The kitchen located just off the dining area is an efficiently planned space with quartz stone counters, PU lacquered shutters, flushed handles and subway tiles on the dado.

The powder room, too, features a chequered wooden grid ceiling, whose geometry is echoed in the metallic tiles that clad the wall. The customized washbasin is carved from a block of marble.

The entrance to the puja area is marked by two carved wooden doors. Flanking them is a faux library featuring rows of leather-bound mock-tomes. Overhead, the ceiling is lined with vintage wallpaper.





LEFT The son's room sports a masculine air and is dominated by greys and wooden tones. Leather makes an appearance as a herringbone patterned headboard, teamed with upholstery to create additional texture. The pattern continues into the niche in the false ceiling too.

BELOW The designer plays with facets on the grey veneered TV unit which sports a sheet rock top covered in resin. The cut-outs facilitate remote access to the equipment concealed within.



stone-work, carvings..." For instance, in the son's bathroom, Serpeggiante Italian marble arranged in 4" X 4" pieces are carved so that four pieces form a set, and the wall takes on an undulating appearance much like strips of paper woven together. And the large multi-drawer unit near the entrance to the master bedroom has a three-dimensional

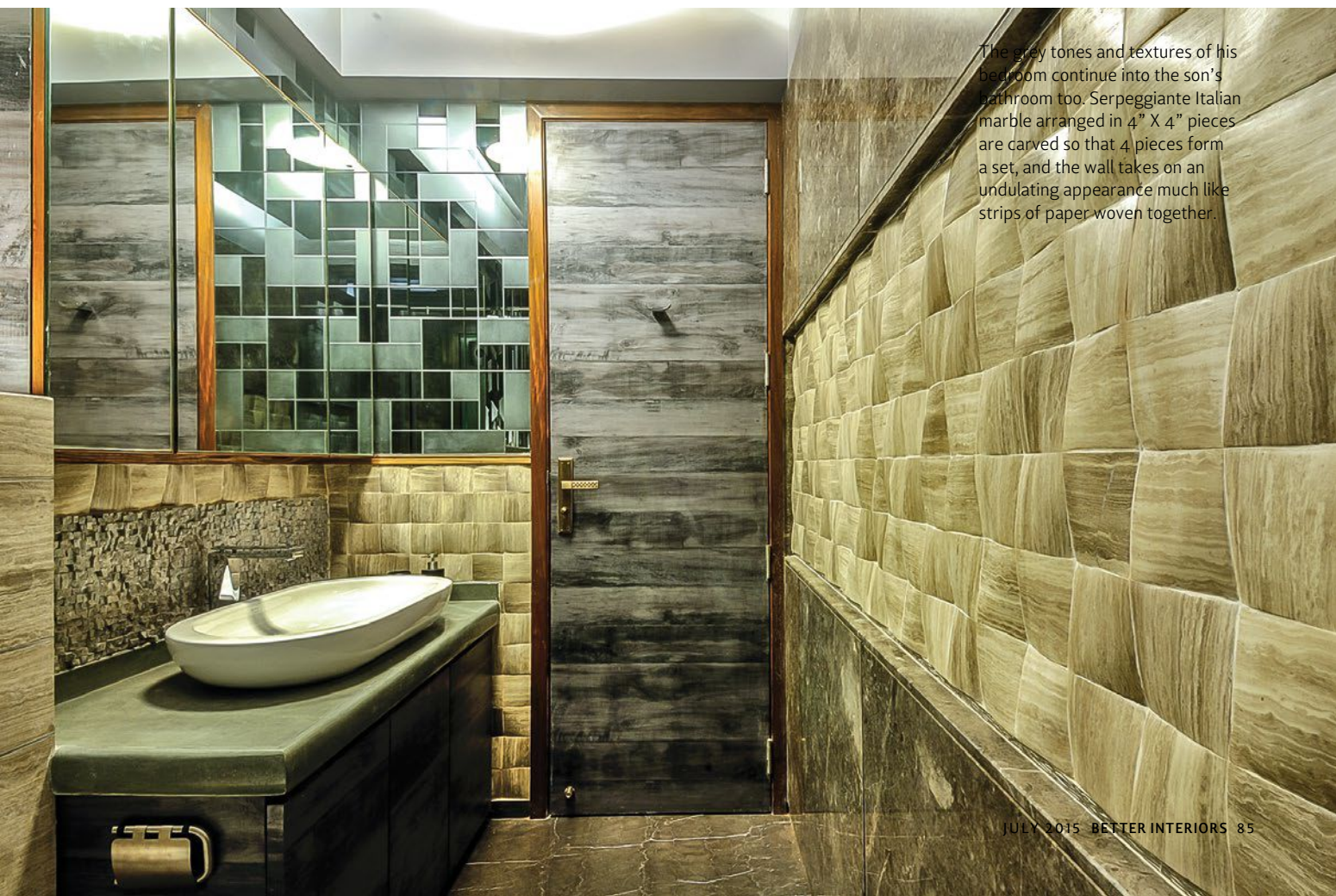
mirror, faceted and interspersed with a diagonally chequered grid of back-painted glass. "All this needed skill and precision."

The clients' request for a change of looks between rooms prompted Sumesh to style the study and guest room along classical lines, the master and son's rooms on contemporary ones,

and the living-dining block on a classic-contemporary scheme. Within each pocket, the interior designer maintained a sense of cohesiveness by repeating colours and motifs. For example, a pair of gold-leafed paintings depicting the left and right palms and dating back to the 17th century forms the focus of the dining area and is the inspiration for the accent



A focal point of the son's room is this unit designed using a range of materials: Indonesian log wood for the top, grey veneer and handmade ceramic panels in silver on the shutters and textured stainless-steel handles. A sculpture by Kare depicting a well-chiselled male form sits atop this unit—a piece that Sumessh says echoes the occupant's physique.



The grey tones and textures of his bedroom continue into the son's bathroom too. Serpeggiante Italian marble arranged in 4" X 4" pieces are carved so that 4 pieces form a set, and the wall takes on an undulating appearance much like strips of paper woven together.



TOP The master bedroom exudes a warm, contemporary air. It has a rich walnut floor and a wooden headboard stretched across the wall with a three-dimensional trapezoid pattern repeated for texture. The large multi-drawer unit near the entrance shows Sumessh's affinity for playing with facets and textures; the mirror is three-dimensional and faceted, and interspersed with a diagonally chequered grid of back-painted glass.

ABOVE The panelled and carved two-toned painted shutters for the wardrobe with their antique cast handles, and the Plaster of Paris moulded bedside lamps add a touch of authenticity to the 60s period charm of the guest room. A delicate floral patterned moss-green wallpaper forms the backdrop for a leather Chesterfield headboard, while a white plaster trim along the ceiling offsets the beige walls and ceiling.

gold colour around the room. So the grey lacquered and faceted sideboard with a grey onyx top is adorned with customized dye-cast and gold-plated handles, while the Meseiro chandelier suspended above the dining table has a 3½' gold ring base. The facet motif is continued onto the dining chairs, while the 5½' square dining table with a hand-sculpted glass fascia has a base that is a gold-plated chequered grid. The chequered wooden grid ceiling above the dining table is seen again in the powder room, and also carries forward in a modified avatar into the deck area.

For Sumessh, attention to detail is an inextricable part of his work methodology. But for this project particularly, it was all about details and customization as well. The whole effort seems to have hit the bull's eye... since he's just been given another project, a larger one this time, by the same clients! **BI**

FACT FILE: **Location** Mumbai
Carpet area 2,600 sq ft **Design firm**
Sumessh Menon Associates **Design**
team Nishant Desai and Namita Potnis
Wood flooring Beautex **Air-**
conditioning Daikin **Furniture**
Aesthetics and Pinakin **Paint** Asian
Paints **Glasswork** Khozem Glass **Marble**
Flora Marble



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The entrance lounge is adorned with quirky photographs of the original derelict *haveli* that narrate its transformation. The warm colours and alluring patterns of the centrally placed *Chakado* (traditional Gujarati handmade woven painting on cloth), completes the look.



Restoration done right

A derelict old heritage wooden *haveli* in the old walled city of Ahmedabad is lovingly restored using traditional skills and knowledge by the City Heritage Centre, Ahmedabad. While the interior design was conceptualized by Deepali Patel; architect Hardik Patel brings in his design and technical knowledge to make the *haveli*'s interiors fit for contemporary use. The result is heartening and awe-inspiring!

TEXT: KRUTI CHOKSI KOTHARI; PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY HARDIK PATEL

India is renowned for its grand monuments and rich ethnic architecture across the world. We've managed to maintain the pace of modern developments and simultaneously preserve our rich heritage by reviving age-old construction techniques and infusing light into depleting traditional architecture. The featured project, a decaying wooden heritage *haveli* in the old walled city of Ahmedabad, has been lovingly restored to its original splendour by a new owner. It's now been converted into a heritage apartment. Today, it is like stepping into a chapter of history as we walk past the intricately carved wooden door towards the

wall niches and cupboards painted to contrast the yellow walls which seem to whisper the long-kept secrets in hushed tones.

When first approached by the team, this 180-year-old structure was a run-down *haveli* located in the heart of Doshiwadani Pol in Ahmedabad. The original intricately carved wooden facade, a characteristic feature of Pol *havelis*, was sadly hidden behind the layers of paint. The first floor was completely damaged and the second one had a half attic with a sloping tin roof. There were no useable bathrooms, however there was an underground water tank for rain water harvesting.



CONCEPT: To preserve the heritage structure for the future generations while infusing a new life into the ruins of heritage *haveli* to make it functional and comfortable for the modern lifestyle of the new client.

ABOVE LEFT Every bracket, cornice, column, railing, door and window of the original wooden facade has been painstakingly restored by scrapping off the layers of oil paint to unveil the original wooden elements which is now protected with a layer of linseed oil.

ABOVE RIGHT The yellow of the wall in combination with the polished Kota stone flooring renders warmth and a welcoming ambience to the entrance lounge.

Originally belonging to a Jain owner, with the expansion of the family, the house was divided into two individual properties. Owing to the dilapidated state, the owner of the frontal property approached the City Heritage Centre of Ahmedabad, a community-based resource centre involved in preserving, sustaining and promoting the architectural and cultural heritage of the city, despite scarce resources coupled with complex grass root situations. "Usually, such properties are sold to a local developer who would pull it down and construct an out-of-context building adding to the concrete jungle. Our quest for an investor who would be sensitive towards heritage eventually ceased when Chandrakant Dhodia from Kenya agreed to put his faith and investments into this project. His vision was to make a cosy two-bedroom studio apartment that would fit the ambience of this heritage city," informs Rajiv Patel, trustee, City Heritage Centre, Ahmedabad.

The core concept was to preserve the heritage structure as a reference to the traditional Gujarati architecture for future generations while infusing a new dimension to make it functional for a modern lifestyle. Deepali Patel,

MATERIALS

Walls Brick masonry in lime and cement mortar (structural), handmade ceramic tiles (kitchen) **Floors** Baswada marble (bedrooms), China mosaic (courtyard), polished kota stone (entrance lounge) **Roof** RCC and 18mm thick cement sheet on steel girders covered with chill wood which is finished with linseed oil **Wall finishes** Lime and cement plaster



LEFT The AC ducts of the adjoining property have been cleverly camouflaged with an eye-catching *Pachhedi*, traditional art done on canvas with natural colours.

BELOW To ensure natural light and ventilation through all the levels of the *haveli*, the central courtyard is restored while rendering a facelift to the adjoining timber openings at all levels.

wife of Rajiv Patel, conceptualized the interiors as per the client's guidelines. Architect Hardik Patel of H+N Design Partners was roped in to materialize this dream. A team of engineers and artisans skilled in traditional construction techniques were also brought on board to ensure the meticulous execution.

Years of the regions' challenging climatic conditions had resulted in intense damage and decay of the original wooden facade of the *haveli*. All the traditional elements like brackets, cornices, columns, railings, doors and windows had to be painstakingly restored. The layers of paint had to be carefully scrapped off to unveil the beautiful wooden elements which have now been varnished with linseed oil for protection from pests and weather. The rest of the stone façade has been painted in neutral tones to accentuate the intricacy of the wooden architecture. The end-result bears witness to the exquisite traditional regional architecture.

As the house was devoid of any designated living room, a lounge has been designed at the entrance porch which would serve to welcome guests. "Turmeric yellow, an auspicious colour, has been used on a wall against the subtle polished Kota stone flooring, creating a warm and welcoming zone. The space is livened up with a quirky display of photographs, composed in decorative wooden frames, of the original *haveli* to narrate the story of the striking transformation," says Deepali. The warm colours and alluring patterns of *Chakado*, traditional Gujarati handmade woven painting on cloth, completes the look.

As this was a divided property, there were many connecting walls and elements. For instance, the ventilation, seen on the yellow wall in the lounge, actually opens in the adjoining property. To maintain its purpose, the unit's opening is retained but covered with a wooden *jaali* painted with antique gold finish.





Adorned with patterns of auspicious lotus in china mosaic, the courtyard accommodates a cosy dining space coupled with a well-equipped kitchen featuring handmade royal green ceramic tiles and antique ceramic knobs.



ABOVE LEFT On the second floor, a wooden door opens towards the linear balcony, facing the courtyard, facilitated with a wooden *jaali* that not only serves as a partition between the terrace and courtyard but also acts as the screen for vertical landscaping.

ABOVE RIGHT The plain solid mass created by the continuous vertical blank wall of the courtyard is embellished with the traditional *Pachhedi* painting depicting a tree and birds as viewed from the second floor balcony facing the courtyard.

RIGHT As one climbs the staircase leading to second floor, a beautiful *Chakado* in earthy tones welcomes guests.

The Pol houses have central open-to-sky courtyards that allow natural light and ventilation as per the ancient principles of Vastu. Adjacent to the courtyard is the opening, of an underground water tank for rainwater harvesting, which is covered with toughened glass lid fixed in wooden frame to view the water level from ground floor.

Adorned with patterns of auspicious lotus in china mosaic, the courtyard accommodates a cosy dining space coupled with a well-equipped kitchen at the adjoining wall. The cooking space's walls are adorned with handmade royal green ceramic tiles and antique ceramic floral knobs. "The wall behind the dining table, shared by the adjoining property, has AC ducts which could not be removed due to ownership debates. This is cleverly camouflaged with a huge eye-catching painting of *Pachhedi* traditional art done on canvas with natural colours," asserts Hardik.

The timber stairs leading to the first floor was incredibly dilapidated due to moisture and pests. Many of the wooden beams and columns





ABOVE LEFT The space beneath the stairs is now a comfortable study area with a delicate *Chakado* featuring intricate pearl work.

ABOVE RIGHT For the bedroom on the first floor, a custom-designed bed is configured from the residual timber columns and beams with the headboard and footboard made from discarded wooden railings.

LEFT The bedroom on the first floor is flushed with natural light pouring in through coloured acrylic glass.



have been recycled by levelling and redoing the joinery. The load of entire old structure was transferred onto an accessory framework and the traditional 12-inch thick, heavy 'fuska' floor. A modern technique of laying new floor by anchoring the wooden structure with concrete pouring has been executed.

Flanked between the street and courtyard, the new bedroom on the first floor is drenched in natural light pouring in through the coloured glass framed wooden windows. The client's desire for a classic four-poster bed with a flowing mosquito net was addressed with a beautiful canopy bed that has been configured from the residual timber columns and beams. Its headboard and footboard were crafted from discarded wooden railings. A painting of Lord Mahavir, belonging to the previous Jain owner, is retained above the side table. The ambient light from the traditional glass 'handi lamps' flushes the room with a soothing glow.

The auxiliary space beneath the staircase is transformed into a comfortable study area embellished with delicate *Chakado* traditional motifs done in intricate pearl work. Furnished with comfortable chairs, a linear balcony

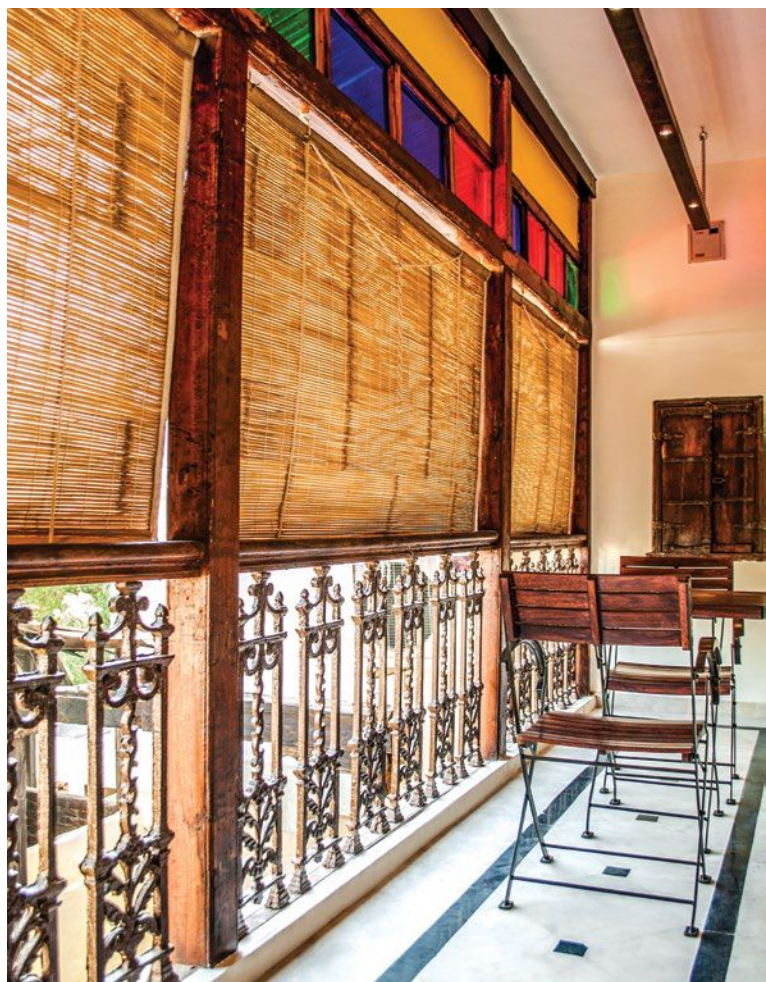


overlooking the courtyard is ideal for morning tea and evening conversations. As one climbs the staircase leading to the second floor, a *Chakado* in earthy tones is displayed as an element of interest on the blank solid wall. The solid mass created by the continuous vertical blank wall of the courtyard is disguised by the traditional *Pachhedi* painting of tree. The adjoining wooden *jaali* acts as a partition between the terrace and courtyard. "The client like a true Amdavadi is an ardent kite flyer. To address his passion, the sloping tin roof of the second floor was replaced with a flat terrace. The new roof is constructed from RCC and has 18mm-thick cement sheets on steel girders covered with Chill wood which is finished with linseed oil for a rustic look," explains Hardik.

In contrast to the subtle decor and neutral tones of the first floor bedroom, the one on the second storey is decorated with antique furniture done in vibrant youthful colours like blue, yellow and green. The green vintage wooden bed, decorated with handmade pictorial ceramic tiles in combination with the yellow wall and warmly tinted windows, creates a dramatic setup. The wooden vanity table in the meticulously laid bathroom is cleaned with

ABOVE LEFT On the first floor, furnished with comfortable chairs, a linear balcony overlooking the courtyard is ideal for morning tea and evening chats.

ABOVE RIGHT Many of the wooden beams and columns have been recycled by levelling and redoing the joinery with the modern technique of laying new floors by anchoring the wooden structure with concrete pouring.





CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT The green vintage wooden bed, decorated with handmade pictorial ceramic tiles in combination with the yellow wall, warmly tinted windows and stunning marble flooring, creates a dramatic setup for the bedroom on second floor.

The decaying *haveli* has been transformed into a contemporary yet heritage apartment.

The wooden vanity table, in bathroom attached to the second-floor bedroom, is cleaned with caustic soda for protection from pest and rubbed with wax over yellow oil paint to achieve the faded effect.

The second floor bedroom is decorated with antique furniture done in vibrant youthful colours like blue, yellow and green.

On the second floor, the sitting at the balcony towards the street gives an opportunity to get engaged with the old city charm over a tête-à-tête.

caustic soda for protection from pests and rubbed with wax over the yellow oil paint to achieve a faded effect.

Careful planning and restoration has turned the old into gold in case of this vintage home. The exuberant restoration of the old decaying *haveli* into a contemporary yet heritage studio apartment is the testimony of the flexibility of Indian traditional architecture. **BI**

FACT FILE: Project Heritage House

Location Kalupur, Ahmedabad **Site**

area 50 sq mt **Built up area** 150 sq mt

Restoration expertise City Heritage

Centre Technical Cell, supported by

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

Interior design Architect Hardik Patel

and Deepali Patel **Furniture design**

Rajan Jain of Ajanta Handicraft Site

engineer Vijay Pandya **Master**

craftsman Jethabhai Solaki and

Sombhai **Site supervisor** Nileshbhai

Solanki. **Artisans** Mohanbhai,

Tribhovanbhai, Ratilalbhai and Gaya

Prasad **Measure drawings** Hiren Patel

Architects Contributors Deep Builders

A soulful box for art



Playing by the rules of being unpretentious and subtle, interior designer Kunal Shah creates Tarq, a contemporary art gallery, where the carefully choreographed space brings art to the forefront.

TEXT: VISHANKA GANDHI; PHOTOGRAPHS: KUNAL BHATIA; COURTESY KUNAL SHAH DESIGNS

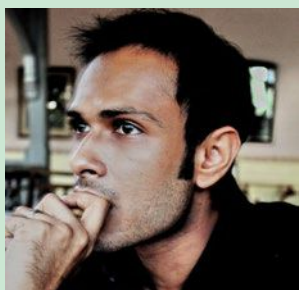
The unassuming shell of the main gallery provides programmatic flexibility. It serves as a space for displaying art and for conducting workshops.



It is extremely rare to be able to create a space that respects the significance of its context in history and simultaneously become the setting for engaging with anomalous objects and their narratives. All this while, ensuring that the space does not lack soul. Kunal Shah, a young interior designer based in Mumbai, receives a brief to create a contemporary art gallery from Hena Kapadia, a young gallerist who has been involved in Mumbai's art world and abroad for over five years. Braced with logical reasoning and an acute aesthetic sensitivity, Kunal creates a deceptively simple shell for a new art gallery called Tarq in the venerable Dhanraj Mahal, an Art Deco building built in the 1930s.

Kunal explains succinctly, "When we walked in, we were very clear that it is not a white cube gallery, it is not a modern building and the bones are already in place. I had to make sure; one respects the heritage aspect, brings it out, and enhances it at the same time, without going too period. It has to be a white cube with a soul." This space was designed to be a residence, so the process takes into account adaptive reuse. Kunal strips the space of the redundant elements and tries to go back to what the architect had intended, as much as possible. He uses delicate interventions and tactful tweaking to inject soul and character to the gallery with the central theme of art being the focus.

The art gallery is unpretentious right from the entrance. The letters Tarq cut out in metal grace an art deco, two-toned panelled door. It



INTERIOR DESIGNER

Kunal Shah

TOP The cassette AC is efficiently hung from the ceiling, thereby retaining height and adding character to the space.

ABOVE The custom-made bench is carefully crafted with a width that renders a sleek look without drawing ungainly attention to it.



opens into a vestibule with a small storage on one wall that also doubles up as a counter for displaying art and a descriptive board explaining the events on the opposite wall. This leads one to the reception area where the furniture is custom made to suit the needs of the receptionist and does not belong to a particular style. However, the woodwork and the polish play a crucial role of visually connecting this piece to history. “We at our firm, put a lot of effort in ensuring that the furniture is just gently placed in the whole scheme of things,” says Kunal. In keeping with the ethos of the furniture being a non-obtrusive addition, subtle things like not taking the console right till the end of the walls, help achieve this effect. “I have built storage that doubles up as a partition wall and left this little gap on the side and the top to give a sense of beyond,” explains the designer. Tarq is filled with such gestures that use subconscious registration to make it very comfortable and easy for one to navigate the space.

On the other side of the partition is the gallery where an extremely thin and continuous band of skirting that’s visually unobstructed by any object, gives the white display walls an effect of being gently suspended, almost like a light fabric. “These subtle things always play a role in how we think and feel,” says Kunal, summing up an essential design parameter of his practise.

The heritage building, with all its grandeur and a fascinating story, also has its challenges. “The existing flooring was a beautiful terrazzo stone but very badly damaged and patchy. So



unfortunately, we couldn’t restore the gallery’s main floor,” explains Kunal. “When we hit the site, we explored various ideas like filling the cracks and crevices with molten gold pigment, going back to the Japanese concept of filling tricky spaces with something more precious, so you add value to it. But we couldn’t go ahead with that as it would be too distracting to have such an engaging floor in an art gallery. At the same time, we were very conscious of the heritage aspect so we didn’t want to rip it off keeping in mind that in the future, this flooring might work for some other

TOP An extended passage wall draws the visitor’s attention to art on the back wall, adding a “sense of beyond”.

ABOVE The white canvas on the partition between the reception area and the main gallery, deliberately leaves a border, playing with the notion of furniture being gently placed.



LEFT The console behind the reception desk is designed to not span the width of the wall.

BELOW The reception desk is custom designed as per the storage requirements. It does not adhere to a specific style but polish helps it seamlessly blend with the contemporary shell in a heritage context.

user.” In response to these factors, Kunal and his team decide on doing a soft intervention that is removable. They decide to go for solid old Burma wood, installed with a tongue and groove joint. “We wanted this flooring to almost feel like it came with the heritage building.”

“In a gallery, the lesser the details you show, the more sophisticated the space is. It would be too distracting to be able to see the door to the cabin,” asserts Kunal referring to the entry to the gallerist’s area. So a simple gesture like pulling the passage wall between the two rooms further to hide the door does the trick. It is a simple solution but cracking it is what showcases the restraint exerted by the designer. As a result, the main gallery is a perfect rectangle, with space for unusual artwork on the cabin wall just beyond the gallery wall, adding depth and arousing intrigue amongst the art enthusiasts. The flooring in the gallerist’s cabin is retained and polished and the entire end-to-end library is gently placed such that the flooring borders and patterns are not unceremoniously hidden.

Kunal takes a similarly simple approach in handling the lighting and the AC units. “We suspended the tracks instead of touching it to the ceiling. It’s far more delicate, the shell remains the shell and very fragile lights are hanging. Also, this display area is one space; the suspension helps in keeping the track complete without having to break due to beams,” he elaborates. “Similarly, installing the AC is particularly tough in this kind of space with low heights. Ideally, you would pack the ceiling down with cassette units flushed with the ceiling. I can’t do that here as the ceiling heights are not very generous and the volume keeps getting cut. As a solution, we hang the cassette units in the gentlest possible

CONCEPT: To create a contemporary art gallery within the confines of a Grade III heritage structure, such that it becomes a platform for showcasing and inviting conversation on art from various contexts.



MATERIALS

Furniture Solid teak and linseed oil polish **Walls** Paint (base white shade from Dulux) **Lighting** Track lights



ABOVE A wall-to-wall library, made using reclaimed Burma teak, is positioned against the wall.

LEFT The existing flooring of the gallerist's room is retained and polished to showcase the art deco flooring patterns and border.

manner,” explains Kunal. These tricks ensure that it does not make the space look and feel ungainly and at the same time, it does not lose out on efficiency.

Tarq attempts to create a strong core, a shell that amicably houses art without once over-powering it. The shell is like the master puppeteer doing his job in the background without being noticed, striving to get the people mesmerized by the action, always ensuring that the focus stays on the puppets. Remove the puppeteer and the play falls flat. And Kunal is that puppeteer... who delicately pulled the strings to create an environment conducive for the artists' work. Tarq has an unusual combination of being a modern contemporary gallery in a heritage set-up. Kunal uses simplicity and distillation to create an inconspicuous shell that artfully loses its identity to the magnificence of the art it houses. **BI**



FACT FILE: **Project** Tarq Art Gallery
Location Dhanraj Mahal, Apollo Bunder, Colaba **Client** Hena Kapadia **Design team** Riddhi Doshi **Contractor** Nirmaan India
Master carpenter Jeevaram Suthar

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A STYLISH CUBE

Grohe has introduced a cubic design for chef-style kitchens with the Eurocube faucet with professional spray. The eye-catching appearance of the Eurocube features a perfectly cubic and solid body (finished in either chrome or matte SuperSteel), which emphasize its architectural character. The 360 degree rotating spring neck maximizes the range of the professional spray and features a convenient one-hand operation. Two spray modes can be selected — a conventional flow of water from the mousseur and a powerful spray for efficient cleaning. Switching between the two modes is as easy as moving a finger with the help of the toggle switch which is conveniently located on the sturdy metal spray. Its slightly rounded edges make for a comfortable grip.

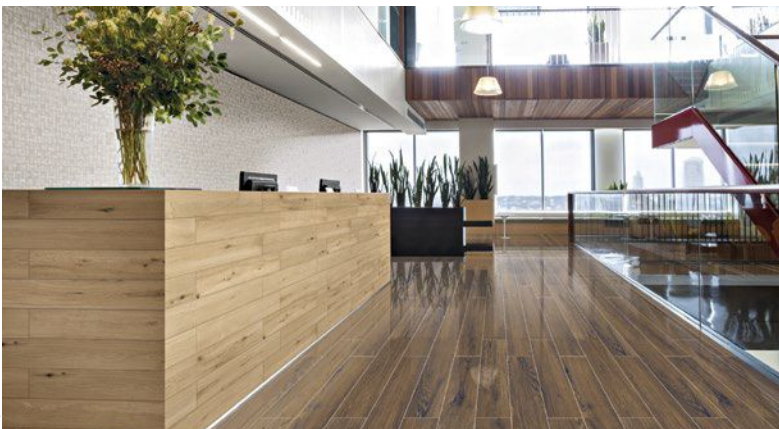
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₹ 16,990 (AIR HEALTH), ₹ 29,990 (AIR HEALTH PRO)



ETERNITY FLOORS

Kajaria Ceramics' latest offering is a gorgeous collection which falls under their popular Eternity category. The newest collection is inspired by the true wooden textures and is therefore simply called the Wood Collection. Available in a size of 130 mm X 800 mm, this premium range has got natural random variation and is made with punch effect. Kajaria employs their famous Nano technology to dish out gloss-finished tiles, and a diamond shield coating for real wood, to give it a superior look. The tiles in the Wood collection is stain proof and has got almost zero per cent water absorption, besides being scratch and abrasion-resistant. They are available in 24 designs that include Mahogany, Chestnut and other wooden textures.

Price on request



HONEY BROWN MAGIC

The Oak Collection by Junckers has been exclusively designed for the modern day style connoisseurs who value finer things in life. Oak is a beautiful, honey brown timber with an attractive grain pattern. The collection is available in Oak Avenida, Oak Boulevard, Nordic Oak, Nordic Oak Boulevard, Black Oak, Black Oak and Black Oak Boulevard species. These are available in thickness of 20.5 mm in single plank in various width measurements.

₹ 700 PER SQUARE FEET ONWARD



POWER WASHER

Bosch has introduced a new washer dryer packed with a number of features. One of the features washes and dries your clothes up to 100 percent within 60 minutes. All you have to do is load your machine, select the wash and dry 60 minute feature and go back to your daily chores. DuoTronic Moisture Sensor, another feature senses when the clothes are perfectly dry and stops the drying process immediately. The sidewalls with Anti-Vibration Design prevent the washer dryer from shaking and shifting, giving you a quite vibration free cycle. If you've forgotten to put a particular garment or put a red garment with white clothes there's a solution to this problem. The Reload function, allows you to open the door early in the cycle to add or remove any garment. What's more? This marvel works without friction for a virtually wear-free operation.

PRICE ON REQUEST



SPIC AND SPAN

If scrubbing your cars and outdoor cleaning takes you hours then Eureka Forbes' recently launched Euroclean Powerclean, an appliance used for outdoor and car cleaning is definitely a must have. This cleaner uses a technology that jets out water at 25 times the pressure of a conventional hose pipe. The powerful jet cleaning function not only eradicates the toughest dirt stains but also manages to reach out to hard-to-reach cleaning areas. Due to its wheels, it facilitates easy moving. It also comes with a special water cupping to filter and operate in various water conditions. Not only that, all these features function without any noise.

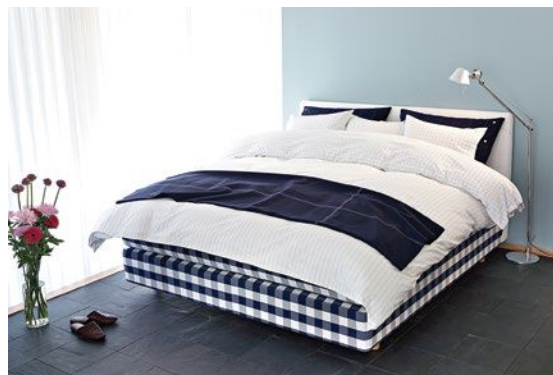
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THE UHD ADVANTAGE

LG has elevated its 4K television standards with its super UHD TV series. Taking LG's Home Entertainment innovation streak forward, the all new SUPER UHD series with ColorPrime technology features Ultra Luminance, a 4K In-Plane Switching (IPS) panel and a Prime Mastering Engine to offer a truly premium, cinema-like experience. The ColorPrime technology allows a display to accurately render every colour in the spectrum by increasing it by up to 20 per cent. The IPS 4K Display offers the most identical colour impression to that of the original image with reduced colour distortion. It also delivers consistent colour from any angle. Another interesting feature is the advanced WebOS 2.0 interface which includes updated features such as My Channel, Input Picker, Quick Settings and Smart Share, making this a smart TV. This ultra slim television is available in 79/65/55 inches.

₹ 2,94,900 ONWARD



THE COMFORTING AURORIA

Hastens, the mattress major from Sweden has introduced Auroria, a continental bed in the Indian market. The USP of this series is that it can be custom made to any length and width (max size 225 cm X 225 cm). It is available in four different firmness: soft, medium, firm or extra firm and in the colour palette of blue check, black check, beige check, graphite check, silver grey check, royal navy check, solid black, solid brown, solid sand and many more. The natural materials used in its construction adapt to the body contours and ensures the right sleeping climate. The mattress has a thick spring bottom section, then a thick reversible mattress, and is then topped with a cushioned mattress again. The reversible spring mattress is made with side stitching, for improved stability and comfort. The Auroria collection is made of Bolster fabric which is 100 per cent cotton, wool and genuine horsetail hair.

₹ 1,80,000 ONWARD



BIGGER AND GLOSSIER

Somany's Glosstra tile has a new addition to the collection, 300 mm X 900 mm which claims to be the glossiest tiles ever in this dimension. The designs include fabric textures, stone and wood finishes, motifs and floral patterns. Part of the collection Woodstyle Wenge creates a wooden look on walls; Marbeline Beige creates a stone finish whereas Wonder Light and Picadilly Grey have a reflective finish. Ultra Gloss technology and a special tonality of pink colour are used in creating designs in Glosstra. The use of high definition digital printing captures detailing on every molecule of the tile surface, and creates a virtually seamless digital canvas.

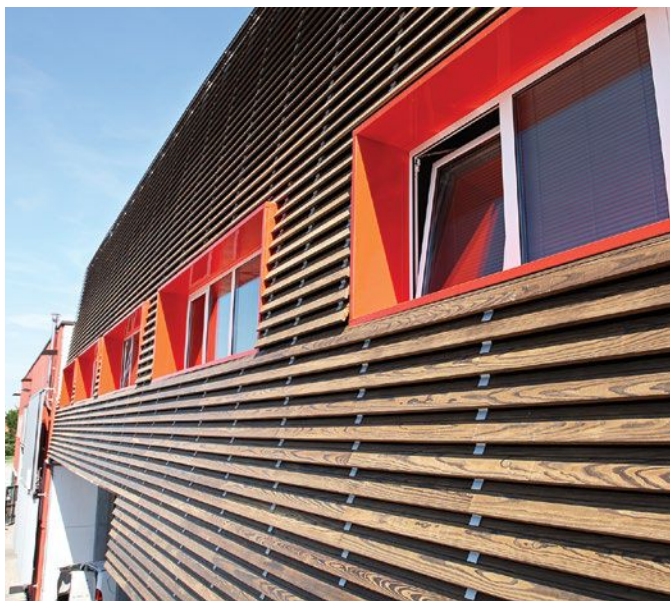
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COOK-OFF

An Oven Toaster Griller is the newest addition made to Kraft Appliances. The appliance has a steel body with a toughened glass door which is easy to clean and maintain. So that you don't have to wait around the kitchen, the appliance also has a timer which notifies you and automatically shuts off once the dish is done. KOTG oven toaster griller features thermostatic temperature control that gives you perfect toasts and grilled items. It has a maximum temperature of 250 degree C and comes with a collection of accessories such as a baking pan, a cookie sheet, a wire rack, a crum tray and a rotisserie set, enabling you to make any meal for any occasion.

₹ 8,990 ONWARD



COOL SHADES

Notion has come up with a different concept of floor boarding where you can revamp your fence, terrace and facade area with the Sun Shades Louvers which protects direct sun rays but will let the wind pass through. Summers are burning hot in a number of cities in India and this can be the answer to create a cool and pleasant environment in the room without maximising your electricity bills. These shades can be customized to the likes of the consumer's house and are made up of solid woods fixed with aluminium clips which give the shades an aesthetic appeal. Furthermore, these drapes also protect your grills, patio, and furniture and play sets from harmful UV rays.

PRICE ON REQUEST



SLIDE WITH PRIDE

Ozone has launched their Wardrobe Sliding Door System for effortless door gliding. Sliding doors are in trend as it allows an unobstructed view inside to view the contents of the wardrobe. It also takes up less space in the room which makes the room look more spacious and lastly, they are economical and are easy to install and maintain. The wardrobes come in top sliding system and bottom sliding system. The top sliding system comes in 'inset and inlay' or 'overlay' type of design options and the bottom sliding system comes only in 'inset and inlay' type option. These wardrobes are minimalistic, classic and are aesthetically appealing and can easily blend into any type or form of furniture in the room.

PRICE ON REQUEST

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Somany Ceramics (SEE BAZAAR)





Pg 68 As a child, my bedroom was best labeled as blah. Everytime I tagged along with my parents for one of those home decor exhibitions, I always wished they'd buy me some super colourful furnishings, and a bunk bed but somehow they always put that thought behind them. They were always plagued with the thought of me outgrowing those adorable things. The second I set my eyes on the super cool bunk bed and the other neon green-hued furniture from Villa Veneta Kids, featured in the *Techniques* section, everything I had ever wished for came back in a flash back to me. If only I could relive my childhood days...
Shradha Shahani

Everyone has their favourites and the **Better Interiors** team is no exception. Sure, we are a bunch of committed 'unbiased' folk who report on design trends faithfully... but we also drool and how!



Pg 96 I've visited my fair share of art galleries across the city (a cousin and I used to enjoy gallery hopping during college days) and gazed at paintings without any knowledge about techniques, styles or modes of art. The Tarq Gallery featured in the *Showcase* segment this issue, designed by Kunal Shah, brought back those memories. What I like most about this space is the understated modern design in the shell of the heritage structure. A white space that gives the work of art a chance to shine in its glory and be devoured by art enthusiasts, and lay people alike. I can picture myself walking across the gallery in its pristine brilliance taking a close look at paintings and arriving at my own meaning of them.
Alifiya Mehamdabdwala

Pg 44 Everything colourful fascinates me... However, in the plethora of adorable goodies we have in the *Bazaar* section this month, I'll definitely pick the ceiling light from Fab Furnish. Besides being a quirky light, the cute and colourful fishes will also merrily sway as the wind blows. Riding on the fact that a baby loves anything that glows and moves, this seems like the ideal fit for a child's room. Simple and functional, these can steal anyone's heart. When I have kid of my own, this will definitely make it to the top of my decor accessories list for his/her room.
Vilas Salve